

TRAVEL visits Japan's ancient capital.

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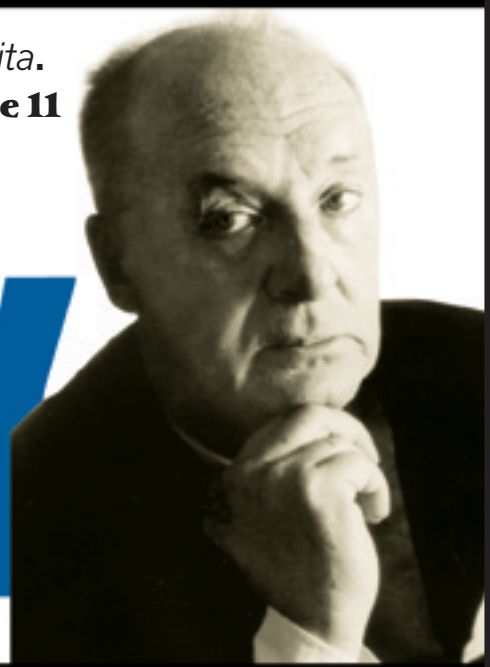
FASHION finds there's not just one party in China.

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BOOKS is tempted by Lolita.

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# BEIJING TODAY

FRIDAY JANUARY 13 2006

NO. 241

CN11-0120

HTTP://BJTODAY.YNET.COM

## China's historical glories ready to meet the world

By Chu Meng

Australia's largest museum, the Powerhouse Museum, is excited to be collaborating with the National Museum of China on the first-ever major international exhibition about the Great Wall of China. The exhibition will see staff from the two museums working side by side to research and create the exhibition.

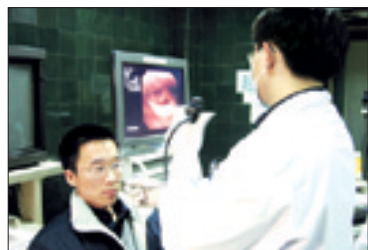
This breakthrough move shows that the National Museum now has the independent capacity to hold theme exhibitions showing off China's national treasures overseas, and is in a position to accept exhibition invitations from major foreign museums, subject to approval from the State Council and the State Administration of Cultural Heritage.

In the past, such highly profitable initiatives were heavily restricted by the central government. This both limited the available channels for the world to learn more about China's glorious historical heritage, and also brought financial difficulties for the museum.

Dr Kevin Fewster, director of the Powerhouse Museum, said yesterday at a ceremony inaugurating the collaboration, "We are delighted to be one of a select number of major museums around the world with which the National Museum of China has signed Memorandums of Understanding to develop exhibitions and other shared programs. During the preparatory stage, Chinese conservation experts will teach Australian staff how to protect the exhibits, before these precious artifacts make their international journey."

Qi Dongfang, of the National Museum of China, said, "An array of historical treasures and artifacts will be on show, drawn primarily from the collections of the National Museum of China. These will be supplemented with objects from the Palace Museum in Beijing, Gansu Provincial Museum and the Municipal Museum of Dunhuang. The exhibition will include many Grade One national treasures and a number of artifacts that have never been seen outside of China before."

## 'Voice beauty' on parade in job hunt



Doctors advise against unnecessary surgery. Photo by Han Manman

By Han Manman

Over four million who graduate from university in 2006 will soon be looking for jobs in China's fiercely competitive employment market, where every aspect of a candidate's appearance counts. Cosmetic surgery, professional make-overs and slimming as part of a job hunt are already nothing new in China. Now another extreme personal modification is being proposed, with vocal cord surgery becoming a demand from some jobseekers.

A growing number of college graduates, especially female graduates in Beijing, are seeking "voice beauty" surgery in local hospitals, hoping to win the favor of job interviewers with a sweet voice.

Doctor Yu Pin, from a specialist clinic at the PLA General Hospital said, "Many people visit our clinic seeking advice on how to alter coarse-sounding voices. Some of them even ask me to perform vocal cord surgery to make their voice like some popular singer." Doctor Yu said, "Our work here is to help patients cure diseases and damage to their vocal cords. If their voice has no problem, we cannot perform this so-called voice beauty surgery."

However, there are still many people who seek out smaller hospi-

tals or private clinics willing to perform the operation. What makes these people willing to take the risk of going under the scalpel?

Geng Jin, a graduate in English, said, "I applied for a position at a public relations department in a foreign-invested company two months ago. But because of my hoarse voice, I didn't make it past the final interview, even though I had passed the written exam and appearance appraisal. That's when I made my mind up to have surgery for my voice."

A Mr Li said, "I worked at a computer software corporation for three years, but I was always mocked by my colleagues for my feminine voice, so I resigned. I hope to have a deep voice before I find my next job."

Is a person's voice really an important factor in their employment prospects? A Mr Guan, a realtor, said that it is not a requirement in his company's employment standards but it may be considered in interviews for the PR department. Toshiba China's HR manager Yu Junhua said that voice is not a recruitment factor for them.

Doctor Yu said that people who put their hopes in vocal cord surgery are completely misguided. "As far as I know China doesn't have such operations, and I have never heard of them being performed overseas."

"Most patients' voice problems are due to poor enunciation and don't require surgery. What they need is voice training," said Doctor Yu. She added, "For the people with no physical problem with their vocal cords who come looking for this so-called voice beauty, we always try to persuade them to abandon this wrong-headed idea."

## Beijing welcomes New Year's first snow



Snow brings joy for Beijing girl. Xinhua Photo

## Fujifilm denies smuggling

By Qiu Jiaoning

An anonymous letter to China's Ministry of Commerce claims that Fujifilm has been colluding with its Chinese agent, Guangxi Juxing Technology Co. Ltd, to smuggle a large quantity of photographic film to China, according to Chinese media reports. Fujifilm denied the smuggling rumor yesterday.

Fujifilm's denial came in a statement emailed to *Beijing Today*, which said that neither the company nor Juxing has engaged in any illegal activity in China.

Shi Yonghua, Fujifilm's spokesperson on this matter, said that the company now produces mostly digital products. In 2005, 70 percent of the company's total revenue came from its digital products, with only six percent coming from traditional color photographic film, Ms Shi said.

The statement also said that

Fujifilm regard China as their most important market and that the company is seeking to increase its investment in the country.

Ms Shi emphasized the unlikely nature of the accusation. "It is hardly possible and would make no sense for Fujifilm to smuggle film, or indeed to conduct any illegal activity in China," she added.

According to the Chinese media reports, agencies including customs have recently been investigating Fujifilm. The company, however, said it has not been investigated by any government agencies over this alleged incident.

The latest report from Ne-tease Technology said the anonymous letter was sent by a Chinese photographic equipment manufacturer who has ties with Kodak. Three leading companies, Fujifilm, Kodak and Luckyfilm dominate the Chinese film market.

## Type A blood donors urgently needed

By Han Manman

Beijingers with type A blood who appear in the Beijing Red Cross Blood Center's records as having donated blood had been sent telephone text messages by the center, with an urgent request that they give blood again.

The emergency appeal was issued because the center has an acute shortage of type A blood. "Our rough estimate is that more than 300 donors are needed, if each person donates 200 cc," said Ge Jinglan, spokesperson for the center. She added, "Several donors already came forward yesterday, including some foreigners, after they received the message."

According to Ms Ge, the normal ratio of blood types A, B, O and AB held at the Center should be 3:3:3:1. Current type A stocks are far too low, and the problem unfortunate-

ly coincides with university students and migrants, important blood donor groups, going back home for the Spring Festival.

As well as issuing a call for donors, the center has extended working hours at its 13 blood donation points. They will now close at 8pm rather than the usual 6pm. "Everyone who wants to donate is welcome to go directly to either our main center or the 13 designated locations. We will also be opening four hotlines to answer any question potential donors may have," said Ge.

**Hotline:** 6203 1992, 6201 9468, 8207 9988, 62350170 (night)

**Address:** 37 Beisanhuan Zhonglu, Haidian District, Beijing

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# China has no plan to dump dollar

A spokesperson for the People's Bank of China said yesterday that he had not heard of any plans to sell US dollar-denominated assets from the country's foreign exchange reserves.

A State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) statement last week that China will seek to diversify the central bank's reserves led to concerns that China will dump its massive dollar assets in favor of other currencies.

Sun Hui, director of the Bank's news department, said, "This is just market speculation."

China now has the world's second-largest currency reserves holdings,

mostly US dollar assets, including a large amount of US Treasury bonds.

Official figures had China's foreign exchange reserves reaching US\$769 billion at the end of September. Many analysts expect these reserves to reach US\$1 trillion in 2006. This would see China overtake Japan to become the nation with the largest reserve holdings.

Concerns emerged that China might move away from the dollar to other currencies after the introduction of the euro in 1999.

SAFE, the foreign exchange regulator, has long pledged that China will manage its reserves more effectively,

and diversify its portfolio to reduce currency risks.

Proposed methods for diversification have included using foreign exchange reserves to buy oil to bolster the country's strategic petroleum reserves.

In last week's statement, SAFE listed "widening the scope of foreign exchange reserves investment" as part of its plans for the new year, but it did not give details.

A research note from Lehman Brothers Bank, issued the day after the SAFE statement, stated that they do not expect "abrupt changes" in China's foreign exchange system.

The investment bank said it

expected the reform of the foreign exchange system to continue, but in a gradual manner.

The *Washington Post* quoted an unnamed senior economist, who advises China's economic policymakers, as saying yesterday that the country has resolved to shift some of its foreign exchange reserves away from the US dollar into other world currencies.

The new policy reflects China's fears that too much of its savings is tied up in the dollar, a currency widely expected to drop in value as the US trade and fiscal deficits climb, the *Post* said.

(Xinhua)

## Two more human bird flu deaths

Two more people have died of the H5N1 strain of bird flu in China, bringing the death toll to five out of a total eight human cases reported so far in the country, the Ministry of Health said Wednesday.

The two victims, reported last month, were a 10-year-old girl in the southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and a 35-year-old man in eastern Jiangxi Province.

They died on December 16 and 30 respectively after failing to respond to treatment.

Of the other six human cases reported since China first confirmed human infection on November 16, two people from eastern Anhui Province died, two from central Hunan Province and northeast Liaoning Province were cured and one from eastern Fujian Province also died.

The most recent victim is a six-year-old boy from Hunan, who fell ill in December and is now in hospital. The boy is in critical condition. (Xinhua)

## Designs sought for Olympic medals

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) has launched a global campaign seeking design proposals for the medals to be awarded at the 2008 Games.

The call opened on January 11 and will end on March 26. Zhang Ming, deputy director of the Culture and Ceremonies Department of BOCOG, said that the designs should highlight the themes of "glory and dream" and "faster, higher and stronger".

Anyone is welcome to participate, regardless of nationality, race or religion. The request forms for proposals and other related documents, including detailed information on design requirements, can be downloaded from the official BOCOG website - [www.beijing2008.com](http://www.beijing2008.com). They will also appear in selected Beijing print media. The organizing committee overseeing the call will also invite selected art design institutes and individuals to contribute their works.

Designers are encouraged to look to medals from previous Games as well as the emblem and mascots of the Beijing Games for inspiration. BOCOG requires submitted proposals to include images of the obverse and reverse of the medal at actual size; the medal ribbon; the medal presentation box, and the accompanying diploma. The medal should be at least 60 mm in diameter and no less than 3 mm thick. The proposal should be presented as a flat design and also in 3-D, and include color and monochrome drawings.

The image of the obverse of the medal should use the uniform image determined by the International Olympic Committee. This image features a winged depiction of a standing Goddess of Victory and a panorama of Greek Panathinaiko Stadium. The wording on the obverse of the medal is XXIX OLYMPIAD BEIJING 2008.

The image for the reverse of the medal should be unique in concept and vivid in style, and reflect the features of the Olympic Games and characteristics of China.

"The medals should be the physical vehicles to disseminate the Olympic ideals and the concepts of the Beijing Games, and to showcase China's arts, designs and scientific and technological development. They should become a unique legacy of the Beijing Games," said Zhang.



Samples of the 2004 Athen Olympic Games were displayed at the competition launching.

XinhuaPhoto

## New national emergency guidelines issued

By Chu Meng

China's State Council last Sunday announced new emergency response guidelines. They require major emergencies or incidents to be reported to the State Council within four hours of their occurrence, and the timely and accurate informing of the general public.

The guidelines lay down methods for preventing and dealing with a variety of scenarios in four major types of emergency: natural disasters, accidents, and incidents related to public health and public order. Incidents are graded in four classes of seriousness, in a color-coded system.

The State Council will create an

office to take charge of emergency response management. The office will collect information on various incidents and co-ordinate response work. The different responsibilities of various departments in providing personnel, finance, material resources, transportation, medical care and communications are also set out.

In addition, in incidents abroad involving Chinese citizens and organizations, Chinese embassies and the relevant State Council departments and regional governments should organize emergency relief work.

Over the past year, there were a series of serious incidents, including

the contamination of drinking water, bird flu outbreaks and mining accidents. This highlighted the pressing need to increase the capacity of government at all levels to protect public safety, deal with sudden incidents, minimize losses, and maintain social stability.

Prior to the announcement of these national guidelines each provincial-level government made its own emergency plans based on their local situations. This made it hard for the central government to get a clear overview when a public emergency occurred. There was also no uniform procedure for local governments and departments to follow.

## Railway industry sets new targets for 2006

By Jackie Zhang

China's rail network will see more money and efforts invested in 2006 and throughout the period of the Eleventh Five-year Plan. Liu Zhijun, Minister of Railways, announced the rail industry's targets last weekend.

This year, the rail industry will work to develop its technological level, including localizing locomotive production technologies. The rail department will import high-speed engines capable of more than 200 kilometers per hour. At the same time, Chinese engineers will develop production technologies for engines capable of pulling a train at over 300 kilometers per hour. Designs of locomotives capable of speeds of 200 to 250 kilometers per hour will be completed later this year.

The government will further invest 160 billion yuan in building railways. There will be 87 new projects started this year, with current 38 projects still ongoing and 38 projects to be

completed. 376 kilometers of new track will be laid, and a further 1,436 kilometers brought into use. Multi-line track will be constructed for an existing 1,028 kilometers of line and a further 1,214 kilometers will be brought into use. Also 3,860 kilometers of electric rail will be built.

The Eleventh Five-year Plan will see in all 19,800 kilometers of new track laid, of which 9,800 kilometers will be specifically for passenger transport.

New passenger railways will be built between Beijing and Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou, and Beijing and Harbin. Trains on these lines will be capable of speeds up to 300 kilometers per hour.

Railway links between cities, such as Beijing and Tianjin, Shanghai and Hangzhou, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, will also be built, also capable of carrying high-speed trains.

The speed on much of the existing rail network will be raised to 200 kilometers per hour.

## Air France falls for charms of Beijing

By Annie Wei

Air France will be showing a four-minute video entitled 'Charmes de Pekin' about urban development in Beijing on its flights around the world.

The video paints a portrait of the city's historic culture, modern vitality and warm-hearted residents and looks at preparations for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

The film, called 'Charming Beijing' in English, was produced in collaboration with the Publicity Department of the CPC Beijing Committee and the Information Office of the Beijing Municipal Government.

Air France said that the film will be played on all Air France flights of more than three-hour's duration for one month, which should mean it will be seen by

over one million passengers.

Wang Qian, director of the Information Office of the Beijing Municipal Government, said that over four million foreign tourists visit Beijing every year, and 'Charmes de Pekin' will be a great introduction to the city for them.

The film, the first of its kind in Beijing has used to promote herself, has been showing on all Air China flights since January 1. More than 80,000 Air China flights every month will make the film available to passengers from all over the world.

Air France will be the first foreign airline to broadcast the film. Later this year, 'Charming Beijing' will be broadcast by other overseas airlines, including Singapore Airlines, KLM and Macao Airlines.

### Brief News

#### Pollutants discharged to sea

Approximately 84 percent of effluent outlets discharge excessive amounts of pollutants into the seas around China in 2005, according to the annual report on marine quality issued by the State Oceanic Administration.

#### Chinese feel safe

A survey of the Chinese public feeling about public order published by the National Bureau of Statistics found that in 2005, 91.1 percent of respondents felt "safe" or "basically safe", up 1 percentage point on the previous year.

#### Legal aid

Chinese lawyers gave legal aid to 433,965 litigants in 253,665 cases in 2005, up 48 percent and 33 percent respectively year on year, according to sources at the Legal Aid Center under the Ministry of Justice.

#### Road home will be busy this spring

With the Spring Festival approaching, authorities predict the highway network will carry a massive 1.855 billion passengers during the upcoming holiday season, up three percent from the same period last year.

#### Hotline helps solve crimes

The Chinese police's 110 telephone hotline took more than 120 million calls related to 3.33 million criminal cases and other offenses in 2005. This led to the apprehension of 864,000 suspected criminals. The figures were released by the Ministry of Public Security.

#### Maritime accidents

Maritime accidents left 371 people dead or missing in China in 2005, and were responsible for 33.2 billion yuan (4 billion US dollars) of direct economic losses, according to an annual report issued by the State Oceanic Administration.

#### China slims down military

By the end of 2005, China had completed a slimming down of the ranks of the People's Liberation Army by 200,000 personnel, meaning the total number of troops is now 2.3 million.

#### Illegal medical practitioners' licenses revoked

Six hundred and sixty medical practitioners' licenses had been revoked in the year to the end of last December, it was revealed at a conference on stamping out illegal medical practice.

#### Pollution control on the Songhua River

China plans to invest 26.6 billion yuan (3.3 billion US dollars) to control the pollution of Songhua River in northwest China over coming five years, according to the State Environmental Protection Administration.

#### Health workers punished for illegal practices

In 2005 China punished 1,248 health workers for illegal practices including taking commission from the sale of medicines and from fees for operations.

#### Beijing house prices set to rise

Beijing house prices are predicted to rise by some 20 percent in 2005, said Miao Yueru, deputy director of the Municipal Construction Commission.

#### Overseas travel

As the largest source of outbound tourism in Asia, China will see 34 million of her citizens traveling overseas this year, said Shao Qiwei, director of the China National Tourism Administration.

#### Integrated circuit market rises to top

China's integrated circuit market surpassed the United States and Japan in 2005 to rank number one worldwide for the first time, according to IC Insights, a US-based semiconductor consulting firm.

#### 98,738 killed on road last year

A total of 98,738 people were killed in 450,254 road accidents in China in 2005, down 7.8 percent from the previous year, China's Ministry of Public Security said Thursday. The number of accident is 13.1 percent down from the previous year.

By Feng Nianhua



## Weekly Review – World

## Guidant accepts JJ offer

Medical-device maker Guidant Corp. accepted a sweetened US\$23.2 billion offer from Johnson & Johnson, but rival bidder Boston Scientific Corp. said the takeover battle wasn't over yet.

Boston Scientific, which has bid US\$25 billion for Guidant in what one fund manager described as a "bet-the-ranch" deal, said it had no plans to walk away.

It was the second time drug-maker J&J revamped its offer in the 13-month takeover fight for Guidant, which has suffered from product recalls and litigation over the safety of its heart devices.

Despite backing the new J&J bid, Guidant has told Boston Scientific that it would be open to additional talks and a new offer, sources familiar with the situation said.

Boston Scientific, which makes cardiovascular devices and products used in oncology and urology, formalized its bid on Sunday, putting pressure on J&J to offer more money.

Under the new agreement, J&J will pay about \$68.06 per share in cash and stock for Guidant. That is higher than the reduced agreement it struck in November, but still below Boston Scientific's current bid of \$72 a share.

J&J did not comment on why it was willing to raise its offer for Guidant just two months after saying the product recalls had materially damaged the value of the company.

– AFP

## IBM, Toshiba, Sony to renew 5-year chip tie-in

International Business Machines Corp., Sony Corp. and Toshiba Corp. on Wednesday said they will renew a 5-year partnership that produced the Cell microprocessor, the heart of Sony's PlayStation 3 video gaming console.

Terms of the renewal weren't disclosed. The companies plan to develop new chip technology for a variety of consumer electronics uses such as televisions, audio equipment and video games.

The three companies invested about US\$400 million in the first phase of the partnership, which began in 2000 and resulted in the Cell, a high-powered chip that runs video game consoles. The partnership is seeking other graphics-intensive uses in magnetic resonance imaging scanners in medicine and missile systems and sonar in the military.

The renewed partnership will focus on developing next-generation chips featuring 32-nanometer technology, which is faster than the 90-nanometer and 65-nanometer chips used in today's Cell technology, IBM, Sony and Toshiba said in a joint statement.

– Reuters

## Oil prices climb with fears over Iran

Oil prices rose Thursday amid market jitters over Iran's nuclear development and on traders' convictions that economic growth will cause energy consumption to rise.

The upward pressure came despite a US report showing a surge in inventories of gasoline and heating oil.

Light, sweet crude for February delivery rose 72 cents to US\$64.66 a barrel by midday in Europe in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Heating oil jumped over 2 cents to \$1.7480 a gallon, while gasoline surged 2 1/2 cents to \$1.7579 a gallon. Natural gas gained 6 cents to \$9.300 per 1,000 cubic feet.

February Brent crude rose 70 cents to \$62.87 on the ICE Futures exchange in London.

The threat of instability in the Middle East raised concerns this week after Iran - a major oil producer - said Tuesday it would allow work at its nuclear research facilities to resume despite warnings from Western countries.

– AP

Edited by Grace Wei

## Bank of China to launch Hong Kong IPO

Bank of China, the country's second-biggest lender, has won approval from the State Council to launch a US\$6-\$8 billion Hong Kong IPO in the first half of 2006, sources familiar with the deal said on Monday.

The state-run bank plans to file a preliminary listing application with the Hong Kong stock exchange as soon as this week, pending final approval from the China Securities Regulatory Commission, the sources said.

The deal is on track to be China's second-largest IPO, following rival China Construction Bank's US\$9.2 billion October listing, which was the world's biggest IPO in four years.

"BOC is China's top foreign exchange bank, and one of the strongest Chinese banks. If it comes to the market, we are interested. Of course, we hope BOC will be offered at a discount to China Construction Bank," said Kim Soon Park, a fund manager at KDB Asia Ltd.

Bank of China plans to offer about 15 percent of its enlarged share capital. At US\$6-8 billion, the float will value Bank of China at US\$40-53 billion, compared with CCB's current US\$84 billion market capitalization.

CCB shares have jumped 25.5 per-

cent from their IPO price. CCB sold 13.5 percent of its share capital at 1.96 times book value.

Despite mountains of bad loans accumulated over years of state-directed lending, China's banks have proven extremely popular with foreign investors.

The deal is expected to cost more than CCB's price-to-book ratio at the time of its listing, as some in China have grumbled that the country's banks are being sold off too cheaply to foreign investors.

Number-five mainland lender Bank of Communications, which became the first overseas-listed Chinese bank when it went public in June, has seen its shares jump by 55 percent.

State media have reported that Bank of China was looking to launch a simultaneous IPO on overseas and domestic stock exchanges which would be a first for a Chinese firm.

One source involved in the deal said on Monday that Bank of China may eventually list its shares in the domestic market but said the Hong Kong listing probably would come first.

Analysts also expect a reform on revenue tax for the banking sector in 2006 to be another catalyst for the industry.

Overseas financial players, lured by an economy growing at over nine percent a year, have spent billions of dollars in the past year to buy stakes in Chinese lenders.

In August, Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc, Merrill Lynch and a foundation set up by Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-shing bought a 10 percent stake in BOC for US\$3.1 billion, or about 1.2 times 2004 book value.

UBS, the world's sixth-largest bank by market value, is investing US\$500 million and the Asian Development Bank is ploughing in US\$75 million in BOC.

Singapore state agency Temasek was forced to cut its US\$3.1 billion investment in BOC by half to five percent in order to win regulatory approval, with China's National Social Security Fund set to take the remaining five percent stake.

Bank of China, the parent of Hong Kong-listed BOC Hong Kong, has hired Goldman Sachs, UBS and BOC International to underwrite the deal.

Another Chinese state lender, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, also plans a multi-billion dollar IPO, although it has not yet chosen investment bankers. (US\$1=HK\$7.8=8.07 yuan)

(Agencies)

## Latest Accent model to be made in China



The Accent car manufactured by Hyundai was on show at the Brussels International Auto Expo yesterday. Production will begin in Beijing within six months. The price estimated at 90,000 yuan. Xinhua Photo

## Focus merges with Target

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Focus Media Holding, the largest out-of-home audiovisual advertising company in China, has merged with their biggest competitor, Target Media, for US\$325 million (over 2.62 billion yuan).

Focus Media Holding Limited (Nasdaq: FocusCN) announced that it has signed a definitive share purchase agreement with Target Media Holdings Limited and its shareholders, including the second largest shareholder, The Carlyle Group, solidifying its position as the market leader in China's out-of-home audiovisual advertising market using flat-panel displays.

After the completion of the merger, Focus Media will operate a nationwide commercial location advertising network of over 60,000 displays and more than 30,000 commercial locations in about 75 cities in China, which covers about 96 to 98 percent of the market.

Under the terms of the definitive share purchase agreement signed by the two sides, Focus will acquire 100 percent of the equity interest in Target for US\$94 million (over 758.3 million yuan) in cash and US\$231 million (over 1.86 billion yuan) in the

form of ordinary Focus shares.

All of the ordinary Focus shares to be delivered under the agreement will be in the form of newly issued shares. Yu Feng, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Target, will join Focus's board as Co-Chairman.

"We believe we can create additional shareholder value through cost structure improvements and access to new growth opportunities," said Jiang Nanchun, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Focus.

Responding to the move, many advertising businessmen expressed concern that Focus may monopolize the audiovisual advertising market. Yu Feng argued that their biggest competitors would be those overseas advertising magnates. "The second largest out-door advertising company JCDecaux acquired two Hong Kong media companies: Media Partners International Holdings Inc. (MPI) and Mediantion. Holdings Inc. for only US\$100 million (806.8 million yuan). And they have already monopolized nearly all the advertising in public transportation in Shanghai. They are the competitor Jiang Nanchun and I are going to face."



## Google vs Baidu: culture wars

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The two largest Internet search engines, Google and Baidu, both activated their new services this Wednesday.

Google introduced their scholar service while Baidu promoted their Chinese culture service.

Google Scholar is the first service product they have released since entering the Chinese market. It is a free service offering access to scholastic resources published in English: academic references, conference news, essays, dissertations, etc. It filters out information irrelevant to scholarship. When the users key in certain words, only the academic content will be shown.

## China Unicom launches cell phone voice navigation service

By Qiu Jiaoning

China Unicom has launched a voice navigation service for cell phones in 114 cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, this week.

The monthly charge for the new service is 18 yuan. China Unicom has stated that it is considering reducing the price gradually.

Samsung, LG, and Hisense have released eight new models of cell phones that can provide technical support for the cell phone-based voice navigation system - "Voice Navi".

Baidu, however, focuses on traditional Chinese philosophy, art, sociology and academic study. The service is linked to over 100,000 web pages about Chinese classics, from the Qin Dynasty to contemporary works. Like Google Scholar, irrelevant links are omitted.

Although the two companies both stated that the timing of the announcements was just a coincidence, still it implies that the fierce competition in the Chinese Internet market has expanded into the cultural realm. Google relies on its huge database while domestic player Baidu has focused on Chinese culture to maintain its stake.

## Weekly Review – Nation

## CNOOC acquires 45% stake in offshore Nigerian oil

Oil giant CNOOC has signed a definitive agreement with South Atlantic Petroleum Limited (SAPET-RO) to acquire a 45 percent stake in an offshore drilling license in Nigeria for US\$2.268 billion, subject to adjustments.

The purchase will be funded from the internal resources of CNOOC Ltd. The transaction is expected to be concluded in the first half of 2006, and is conditional on, amongst others, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and Chinese government approval.

Goldman Sachs (Asia) L.L.C acted as financial advisor to the Company in connection with this transaction.

## Tesco to open first store in Beijing in 2007

By Wang Juan

Britain's largest retailer Tesco will open its first store in Beijing in 2007 to establish a foothold in the fast-growing market, according to a local media report.

Tesco Plc, the world's third largest hypermarket operator, entered China in July 2004 by buying a 50 percent stake in the chain retailer Hymall, a Chinese mainland subsidiary of the Taiwan-based Ting Hsin International Group.

Last October, Hymall selected an area of 20,000 square meters in east Beijing for its first store in the capital city, according to Wang Junshan, Hymall's public relations manager.

## Park Plaza opens its first hotel in China

By Victor Bai

Park Plaza Hotels & Resorts announced the soft opening of its first hotel in China, the Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing, a mid-scale, full-service hotel for business and leisure travelers to the Chinese capital.

Park Plaza Beijing will be managed by Carlson Hotels Asia Pacific. The hotel was designed by Karen Wong Design and features 216 rooms.

Carlson Hotels Asia Pacific includes a portfolio of eight hotels in China across its brands of Regent International Hotels, Radisson Hotels & Resorts and Park Plaza Hotels & Resorts with plans to open an additional three hotels in key Chinese gateway cities over the next two years.

## Copyright victory is sweet for Ferrero Rocher

By Grace Wei

Italian confectioner Ferrero Rocher has won a copyright suit against a Chinese competitor it accused of ripping off its flagship brand of gold-wrapped chocolates.

A Chinese court has ordered Montresor (Zhangjiagang) Food to pay 700,000 yuan (US\$87,000) in compensation to Ferrero and to stop producing the copycat chocolates immediately.

The Chinese version of the creamy hazelnut chocolates carry slightly different logos but have the same appearance and almost identical wrapping.

The Tianjin High Court ruling signals a change in fortunes for Ferrero Rocher after the Second Intermediate Court of Tianjin ruled last November that Montresor, a Sino-Belgium joint venture, could not be accused of counterfeiting because "Montresor's brand of chocolate has a higher reputation and has been a famous product for a longer period than Ferrero Rocher."

## Morgan Stanley's top China banker to join Bain

By Victor Bai

Morgan Stanley's China chief executive, Jonathan Zhu, will join Boston-based private equity firm Bain Capital after 11 years with the Wall Street giant, bankers familiar with the situation said on Monday.

Zhu's departure has spurred speculation that Wei Christianson, Citigroup's China chairwoman, would join her former boss John Mack at Morgan Stanley.





## Justice at highnoon

By Jackie Zhang

High noon, Pacific time. Thursday in a desert town. Wednesday night in Beijing. Roy Shaver, the two-year-old son of Wu Xia, is being reunited with his mother in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"The boy is thin now with slight injuries on his body," said Tian Yuerui, Wu Xia's mother, "It is obvious that his father does not take good care of him."

For the past six weeks, Wu Xia has been in Odessa, Texas, her husband Timlin Shaver's hometown. Wu Xia sought the return of her son. "Since we do not know the law in the US, we needed the help of a lawyer and a detective," she said.

Last Tuesday, Wu formally filed for divorce and for custody of the child in Ector County, Texas. A par-

tial resolution to the lawsuit was announced there on Monday. Timlin Shaver was ordered to return the boy to Wu, and pay US\$1,200 a month in child support, US\$1,500 a month in spousal support, and to reimburse Wu Xia her US\$30,000 legal fees.

In fact, while Wu brought the suit against Shaver in Ector County, he also brought a lawsuit against her at Clark County, Las Vegas. "He claimed that he was a resident of Nevada. However, it was proved he was the resident of Ector County," said Tian. "Ector County should be the jurisdiction for all further proceedings."

When the Judge at Ector County awarded temporary custody to Wu, she was worried whether her husband would follow the Court's decision and give her son back. "The law gives me justice. However, I'm not

sure whether the judgment will be executed."

On the stroke of noon Wednesday, the judge at Ector County Court communicated with the judge in Las Vegas, presiding over Timlin Shaver's lawsuit and informed him of his judgment. Then, with the help of the Judges and Wu Xia's lawyer, they got in touch with Shaver's lawyer. Shaver has no choice but to return the boy.

"The case has not been finished yet. The Court has only made a decision on the upbringing of the child, but there are many other issues like divorce, and financial affairs. We'll stay in the US till the lawsuit ends," said Tian.

"We have received help from many kind-hearted people in the US," she added, "During the six weeks, my daughter lived with her lawyer's mother and was taken care of. Before the hearing at the Court, the minister of the town prayed for us. Many people have given us support. All this has really saved us."

# Beijing woman sues US husband over child



Wu Xia, Roy and their detective

By Lou Li

After 55 days of anxiety and exhaustion, Wu Xia, a Chinese woman who went to America to sue her husband for stealing her baby, finally saw justice done.

Tuesday morning, Beijing time, the court in Ector County, Midland, Texas, USA, ruled that Wu Xia should have guardianship of her child, and her husband Tim should be allowed to visit the child for two hours a week. The whirlwind court case has been resolved just seven days after the suit was filed.

However, Wu Xia is far from happy. Her two-year old son is still in the custody of her husband, who was in Las Vegas and hasn't appeared since he eloped with his son from their home in Beijing two months ago.

"American law provided me with a just ruling. But the executive power of this ruling is still unknown to me," she said. She plans to go to Las Vegas to enforce the court's ruling.

Three years ago, when studying in college in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, Wu Xia fell in love with her husband Tim, an American 10 years her senior. They married and had a son named Roy. On November 14 last year, Wu Xia's dream life became a nightmare. "That morning, Tim asked Roy to say goodbye to him downstairs. Then he escaped the attention of the nanny and took Roy away. He turned his cell phone off," Wu Xia recalled over a crackling phone line from across continents. "24 hours later, Tim called me and said Roy and he were both in America. He demanded I give up the right to raise my child and threatened to keep Roy in America forever. I objected, of course. A few days later, Tim left Roy - who doesn't know English at all - in America and came back to China, asking me to sign a document to give up my maternal rights." From across continents, I hear Wu Xia choke back tears.

Fifteen days later, Wu Xia, together with her mother Tian, went to Houston and employed a local lawyer. On the same afternoon, Wu Xia obtained an urgent decree issued by the courts



Wu Xia and the detective looking for her child.

Photos provided by Tian Yuerui

demanding Tim and his family return Roy to his mother.

But police couldn't find any trace of Roy when they searched Tim's mother's house. A seven hour search turned up nothing. Wu Xia and her mother didn't know what else to do in this dusty, unfamiliar land.

"We showed Roy's picture to the townspeople. A waitress in a diner told me that she had seen Roy with an old man. She remembered Roy didn't speak English, and just sat quietly."

Later, Tim's mother confirmed to the police that Tim had returned to America and had taken Roy away from her house. She refused to give more details. Wu Xia, with no way out, kept on sending toys and candies to Tim's mother's house. "A psychotherapist told me that children under five feel psychological hurt being away from their mum for more than three days," said Wu Xia, "But now Tim's family has disappeared. I don't know where my son is. I don't know whether he is OK."

Wu Xia's lawyer was disgusted at her husband's behavior; "He abused his paternal rights

and deprived Wu Xia of her maternal rights. This kind of place [Las Vegas] is filled with gambling, sex and violence, and could cause great harm to the child's growth." In quieter tones, the lawyer explained that Wu Xia herself was becoming depressed, spending her days staring at Roy's photo and sobbing. He was unsure if she could bear the strain - especially as she herself was so detached from familiar surroundings.

But the story of the Chinese mother and daughter seeking their baby stirred the town. Local churches, citizens and public organizations were eager to help. American associations specializing in finding lost children regularly called to ask how the case was going. The Chinese consulate in Houston also offered sympathy.

Wu Xia has asked for a divorce at a court in Beijing. The court issued notice of the trial December 20 last year. But the court found their powers fell short of their wishes when hearing the case, since one of those involved is an American now living in America.

But Wu Xia is determined, "I will stick it out until I bring my child home."

Related cases:

### The custody of Chinese girl He Mei ruled in favor of US Couple

On May 12, 2004, a court ruled that the custody of a Chinese girl, He Mei, should go to the Bakes, who took care of the new born for a while at the request of her parents. The Bakes later sued He Mei's birth parents for guardianship of the child. The case lasted four years.

The He couple were unhappy with the ruling and vowed to appeal. But the judge defended his ruling, saying the He couple had asked the Bakes to take care of their daughter due to financial problems. In the interests of He Mei, he awarded custody to the Bakes.

### Chinese mother pledges to win back guardianship of her son

A Chinese woman named Xiong Jing lodged a legal appeal, pleading for the guardianship of her son Tristram Kelly, whom she had been unable to see for 960 days.

Xiong Jing married an American man, Craig Kelly, in 1999 and gave birth to little Tristram the next May. But before Tristram was born, Xiong Jing discovered her husband was an alcoholic and a womanizer.

In a quarrel at the end of 2002, Craig Kelly threatened Xiong with a gun. The police took Craig away and sent Tristram to a foster family from the Children's Bureau, claiming that Tristram might be threatened.

Xiong Jing secretly took her son away when visiting him in summer 2001 and brought him back to China. Craig Kelly died of cancer in 2002.

In January 2003, Xiong Jing was arrested in Vancouver Airport for second-level anti-guardianship crime. She was released after serving a one-year term.



# Beijingers can learn to love

By Chu Meng

In the capital, training in a skill or profession is essential if you want to find a good job. Now you can enhance your resume even further, because the first love training class has opened, to teach youngsters how to express love and build affectionate relationships.

Du Shengxiang, a 32-year-old with a Master's degree from the School of Psychology at Beijing University is the man who set up this love course, and currently its only teacher. To date he has nine students ready and willing to learn useful love skills as a means of self-cultivation.

## Love can be taught

"Many perfectly good men and women have great difficult expressing themselves to the person they love. Young Chinese university graduates going out into the world will probably find in the first few years that it is really hard to find love. This is especially true of today's society, where everything is fast-paced, superficial and instant," says Du with a wistful smile.

"Also, most young people have been bred to accept an indirect way of expressing their emotions. That's been a part of our national identity for thousands of years. It seems people never have a problem expressing a need for food but will have a problem expressing emotions, such as love and hate; yes and no; their likes and dislikes, even for colors," he said.

Du illustrates his point with a story from his own past. When he was in middle school and later at university, he was extremely shy and seldom talked to girls.

His parents even worried that he might have a mild form of autism. He is grateful to a professor who wrote him a letter, which helped open his heart and establish his self-confidence. He was able to ask his parents not to give up on him. As time went on, he became a more outgoing person. He eventually majored in psychology, researching different the interpretations of love and affection prevalent in Eastern and Western cultures.

"Over the last 30 years, western academics have been developing the study of close relationships. Some professors have now moved beyond theory and are making the discussion more personally related to their students by teaching relationship skills that they can use outside the



Du teaches his 'students' how to love.

Photo by Li Yufang

classroom. Some call it Relationships 101. The concept has proved wildly popular on campuses in many western countries; I think the theory would be equally useful for young Chinese people," he said.

## Students unconvinced

Well, that's the theory. Chinese university students and young white-collar workers have their own opinions on the value of these emotional skills training class, based on their response to the myriad of new things they experience now they are out on their own in the world.

Liu Zizhong is a 24-year-old Masters student at Beijing University. "I don't plan to attend this sort of class, because for the present at least I am confident in my own ability to express my emotions properly. I can find someone I love by myself. I'm not saying his theory is wrong. It may work for some people, but I don't think it's the thing for me."

Du Shengxiang replies to comments like this saying, "I do not teach students simple things like how a boy can say hello to a girl when they first meet. Instead, I want to give them a deeper and more all-round understanding of love. For example, what are men and women's different expectations of love and emotional life? Do women want more out of marriage than men?"

Hu Shuang, a young woman in her senior year of high school says, "I wonder whether his theories are really practical. You know, meeting someone and sitting down to talk about love are completely different from how you build a truly close relationship between two lovers. I know in western countries, some lovers improve their skills at classes that teach the art of the passionate kiss. Or they learn skills to make them feel better in bed."

## Nonsense

Professor Xia Jinluan, a sociologist at Beijing University, was dismissive of the value of this kind of class. "They are sheer nonsense. How can love be taught? It's a scam, no different from a dating club, which could be found anywhere. People can fall in love in the first sight, or they can find affection grows slowly and spontaneously over time. Local love needs honesty from both parties. A bunch of so-called theories and skills will not do. This is a class to teach youngsters how to cheat others rather than to teach them how to love."

## Slow sales for first online drugstore

By Han Manman

Jewim Pharma, which runs 35 drug stores in Beijing, announced Monday that it was granted a license by the Beijing Food and Drug Administration (BFDA) last December 29 to offer drugs for sale online. This makes Jewim the first legal online drugstore in the country. But the online drug business remains far from satisfactory.

Jewim's announcement came hot on the heels of new regulations issued by the State Food and Drug Administration legalizing the online trade in medicines. Suitably qualified enterprises can open online drug sales businesses serving pharmaceuticals manufacturers, wholesalers, medical institutions and individuals within China. The regulations were effective December 1 last year.

The regulations stipulate three kinds of businesses permitted to engage in Internet trading of pharmaceuticals: medicine manufacturers selling medicine to wholesalers and medical institutions; qualified enterprises selling to medicine manufacturers and medical institutions; and drug stores selling to individual consumers.

Just as other forms of shopping online are becoming more and more popular, many find buying their drugs online convenient and more private. Many consumers are replacing a trip to the corner drugstore with a click onto the Internet, where they can find any of a range of over-the-counter medicines and other health products available.

Jewim's online drugstore offers a ten percent discount to shoppers, and delivers their drugs free of charge to addresses inside Beijing's fourth ring road within the hour for orders worth 50 yuan or more. Despite this, business has been slow over the past two weeks.

A salesperson at Jewim's Chaoyang store said that many consumers are concerned about the quality of drugs for sales online and have asked about it.

One customer at the store said, "I'm interested in buying online, but medicines aren't like books or clothes, if I buy fake or out of date drugs it will directly endanger my health. I would rather go to a drugstore even if the way costs me more time and more money."

Lu Shigang, in charge of Jewim's online sales, told Beijing Today said, "Since starting our online business, we've only been getting ten or so customers a day buying from our online drugstore." Lu believes that consumers' indifference is mainly due to fears about the quality of the drugs available online. "Our online products are all from our regular drugstores. Consumers worried about online products can pick their order up from one of our stores to check quality," said Lu.

He pointed out that online drug retailers are required to pass a monthly inspection by the BFDA, so the quality of medicines is guaranteed.

# New low-cost hospitals planned

By Annie Wei

The Ministry of Health held a press conference to announce new policies that will see the building of hospitals open to all and charging reasonable fees for health services and treatment.

Mao Qun'an, from the Ministry of Health, announced a new plan for China's hospital system that will see county or township governments financing the low-cost hospitals suited to their local economy and their citizens' standard of living.

The new low-cost hospitals will be expected to operate as non-profit organizations and to guarantee basic health services for migrant workers and low-income families.

Public health-care reforms in the 1990s made China's state-owned hospitals responsible for generating their own funds. This led to a social phenomenon where sick poor people were unable to afford to see a doctor.

The government's share in national health spending has plunged from close to 100 percent to just 15 percent today. Less than ten percent of China's rural population and only half of urban residents have medical insurance.

According to the 2003 na-

tional health survey, 64 percent of people in cities who needed hospital treatment said they chose not to be treated because of the cost. In the countryside, that figure was 75 percent.

A recent scandal in a Harbin hospital shocked the public – a patient who stayed in the hospital for 67 days and later died was charged 5.5 million yuan for his care. Media exposure led to an investigation which found that many of the charges were spurious.

Mao said the Ministry of Health will begin changing the way public hospitals are run and how much they pay doctors. Mao said these measures should prevent public hospitals from making unnecessary use of high-tech medical equipment, and stop doctors and other hospital staff's incomes from being linked to prescription or other charges.

Mao said that provision of low-cost health care should be mandatory for public hospitals. They should not be run for profit and should meet the needs of ordinary people and those on low-incomes.

Some, however, doubt whether there are adequate government funds to build and run low-cost hospitals.

Mao explained that the current complexity of China's pub-

lic health care system makes it impossible to make all public hospitals function as low-cost care providers. This is why the Ministry of Health decided to open new low-cost hospitals to rectify the situation.

Some say that the current problems besetting public health care are the result of inadequate funding and the lack of systematic reforms, meaning public hospitals overcharge patients to make up a cash shortfall.

In some under-developed areas, local government has even taken money from hospitals to finance other projects, according to reports that appeared in a Guangzhou newspaper in November 2005. Such stories mean many doubt the national government's ability to guarantee that county or township governments will build low-cost hospitals and run them properly.

Others want a clearer definition of what a low-cost hospital is, and better regulations for "their management."

Mao said by building low-cost hospitals nationwide, low-income families can be guaranteed access to medical care and services. However, issues such as how to invest in low-cost hospitals and what standards they should operate by remain unresolved.



Low-income people need more low-cost hospitals.

Photo by Nan Shan



# Historic homes avoid destruction



By Wang Xiaoyuan

**T**he former homes of 308 historical figures from Chinese history have been identified in Beijing after a five month investigation, and a campaign to preserve the buildings is underway.

Beijing People's Political Consultative Conference (BPPCC) and Volunteers from Beijing Union University carried out the investigation.

Around 30 percent of the locations identified have been torn down during the city's reconstruction. The interiors of most of the preserved buildings have been changed completely by the modern residents.



The History and Culture Office of the BPPCC has submitted a report to the government of Beijing to provide solutions to the preservation problems.

By the time of going to print, 50 residences will have been listed by BPPCC. "People will make more effort to protect a residence if they know these places are of historical interest", said Kuang Guoliang, the Vice Director of the History and Culture Office.

"The former residences of historical figures are of important cultural value to the city. They are the soul of Beijing. Without the preservation of these residences, the essence of a people's Olympics won't be complete," said He Zhuoxin, the director of the office.

Satisfaction was tempered by concern at the dilapidated condition of 30 percent of the residences.

Jinjiang Assembly Hall, the former residence of Lin Haiyin, one of the pioneers of modern Chinese literature, was preserved during last year's city reconstruction. However, besides the street number on the door, there was nothing signifying its historical importance. Only the ancient tiles on the roof and three old Japanese pagoda trees growing at the center of the courtyard indicated the original appearance.

Mr. Yang, who still lives in the courtyard, said the roof had been leaking for many years. "The residence management from the Community sent staff to repair the roof for us. However, if they did repairs, all the old tiles must be changed. To preserve the historical value of the courtyard, we have never let them do anything."

Photos by Icy Qian



## A battle between lions

By Wang Xiaoyuan

A Jiangsu Province events organizer has sued the Trademark Review and Adjudication Board (TRAB) of State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC) this week for invalidating its trademark.

At the end of October, 2005, TRAB invalidated the trademark of the company, named Xiang Shi (Lucky Lion in Chinese), because of similarities with the lion mark used by the FA Premier League (FAPL).

However, Xiang Shi stated that they had registered the lion trademark in the Trademark Office of SAIC in 1999; while FAPL did not register in China until 2000. Thus they insisted on their right to use the design of the lion as a trademark.

Staff from SAIC explained that, according to the Trademark Law of China, the company who registers their trademark first enjoys the priority to use the design of the mark. However, as the lion trademark used by FAPL has been registered in Britain since 1992, and the mark has been well known to international audiences through sports broadcasts on TV, it was highly possible that Xiang Shi Company had viewed FAPL's trademark before 1999.

The two lion marks look very similar in shape and color. Based on the Provisions on the Determination and Protection of Well-know Marks issued by SAIC in 2003, Xiang Shi Company had violated the copyright of FAPL's trademark.

Guo Tao, the president of Xiang Shi, however, did not agree with TRAB's verdict. He pointed out that the design of lion they used was different from FAPL's. He said the most obvious dissimilarity was that FAPL's lion is stepping on a football, while Xiang Shi's does not step on anything. "Besides," he said, "the design of the head of the lion and the shape of the crown is very different. At least, there are two Chinese characters under our lion."

The First Intermediate People's Court of Beijing has taken the case and informed FAPL as the third party in the suit. By the time the report is published, the lion trademark used by Xiang Shi before has been taken off its website and other advertising.

## Top companies and local embassies toast 2008

By Liu An

A silent auction 'A Toast for 2008' to help promote the use of English, will be held next Thursday evening.

The auction will be attended by 60 members of elite society, and was organized by *Beijing Today* and *Beijing Youth Weekly*.

Proceeds from this auction will be donated to publish English learning handbooks as New Year gifts for Beijing citizens.

The guests are from over 30 Fortune Global 500 companies, local embassies and fashion brand companies, such as UNESCO, HP, Nokia, Intel, Air France, CSC, CNC, and Beijing Mobile.

They will donate gifts to be auctioned. The gifts are souvenirs that represent the culture of their company and country.

The English learning handbook, which covers everyday English sentences, will be published in early 2006. These free handbooks will be handed out in department stores and residential areas in 13 districts all over Beijing.

According to Beijing Speaks Foreign Language Office's statistics, the number of foreign language speakers in Beijing's is 4.14 million, or about 29 percent of all residents. It estimates that the foreign language speaker population will rise to 5 million in 2008, or 35 percent of all residents.

## Private AIDS diary published

By Jackie Zhang

*Diary of an AIDS Girl*, published this Tuesday in Beijing, is the story of Zhu Liya, a 22-year-old girl from Shaanxi Province.

She published her diaries to let healthy people know about the world of an AIDS patient.

In the book, Zhu writes about her experiences since 2002. "I tell about how I became infected with AIDS and my psychological change after I was informed about it," said Zhu Liya. "The life of young people is full of novel things and curiosity. I hope that they can learn about the importance of how to protect themselves by reading my diaries."

"I calculate that I became infected with AIDS in 2003," said Zhu. She was infected after having unprotected sex with her foreign boyfriend. In 2004, the boy died in his home country after he returned for treatment. In April that year, Zhu Liya was informed that she had the AIDS virus.

"I was upset and depressed and was not willing to meet and talk with anybody. All I thought about was different ways to commit suicide. When I felt really bad, I would go to the hospital and talk with the doctors because only they could understand my disease and were willing to communicate with me," she said.

However, when a volunteer brought her to Henan Province, Zhu changed her attitude. "I saw many AIDS patients there who were leading a poor life. I felt that I should do something for them."

In June this year, Zhu agreed to an interview with *Southern People Weekly Magazine* and revealed her experiences. "Many people could not understand me and blamed me because I chose a foreigner as my boyfriend at that time. Then, the editor of the Tencent website contacted me, hoping I would publish my diaries online. In August, I began to publish some of my diaries online. More and more people expressed their concern."

"Now I do not need to lead a secret life. I go to the hospital for regular check-ups. My friends know about my disease and accept me," Zhu said. At present, she has finished her university study and is looking for a place to do an internship. "I do not care what kind of work I do. I will value every chance people give me."

The only problem now for Zhu Liya is how to let her parents know about her disease. "I do not want them to know about it from media or other people. I will tell them myself when I find the right time," she said.

## Beijing Museum volunteer positions

By Han Manman

Newly opened Beijing Museum has had an enthusiastic response to its volunteer tour guide program, with 308 people from the 1,344 who applied being selected for interview.

The final recruitment list will be published on the museum website today.

According to Yang, Sunday's interview was mainly about manner, communication abilities and historical knowledge. English ability is also an important consideration, and applicants must be aged between 21 and 76.

"I retired almost 10 years ago and studied Beijing history at college for the elder people. This time I applied to become a volunteer because I hope

to share what I learned with the museum visitors," a female applicant, Ms. Li said.

A scholar returned from America said that she had not heard about the concept of museum volunteers before she went abroad. After seeing the volunteers in American museums, she has a deep appreciation for the work and now she is eager to become one.

"The enthusiasm and educational background of the applicants is really beyond our expectations. Many of them are retired elders, college teachers, graduate students and scholars back from overseas," said Yang Dandan, director of Beijing Museum. "The museum is so fortunate to have such

talented volunteers. Our original plan was to recruit 60 volunteers, but now we will consider recruiting more".

According to Yang, the museum received 2,000 visitors each day during the one month trial period. This means the museum has a limited supply of guides.

The volunteers will receive training before beginning their work. The volunteers are required to work for the museum at least once a week, and no less than 100 hours a year. Yang said that the volunteers are expected to begin work at the end of this month.

From this Monday, the museum will temporarily close on Mondays until further notice.

## Peacocks starving to death



Photo by Bright Huang

By Annie Wei

160 peacocks in Fragrance Park are facing starvation after their caretaker disappeared. Last Friday, the caretaker, who used to look after the peacocks, left suddenly. Hundreds of peacocks were left without any care or food for a week.

A source said that one peacock had died of starvation, emphasizing that an investigation revealed its death had nothing to do with bird-flu.

The peacock garden in Fragrance Hill Park was built in collaboration with a businessman surnamed Xiao from Zhejiang Province six years ago. According to the agreement between the park and Xiao, Xiao was responsible for their daily care and feeding, and the park would provide the money and supervises Xiao's work. The contract was due to end this February.

Park authorities said they knew nothing of the peacock's

death. One of the staff members said the park realized the caretaker was gone last Friday when they did a routine check. After contacting Xiao, it was confirmed that the caretaker left last Thursday without reason.

The Fragrance Park said that they were concerned about the peacocks, and hoped that the caretaker could come back to carry out his job.

At the same time, they had reported the issue to their superiors and hoped to get the public's help.

Xiao was facing his own dilemma: he has run out of money for the peacocks as he has spent a lot of money on bird-flu prevention. "I spent around 3,000 yuan on each peacock when I bought them, now they are only worth 600 to 700 yuan each," Xiao said.

Meanwhile, the peacock garden's business is getting worse and worse, Xiao admitted.

Fragrance Park admitted that they did not want to extend the contact for keeping the peacock garden any more, mainly because many visitors complained about the peacocks' frightening screams.

Xiao denied any possibility of bringing peacocks away from Beijing, because "animal transportation is getting stricter and I did not have the relevant paper work for breeding peacocks in Beijing."

Xiao said what he expected local people would bring food for these poor peacocks, "They are not picky about their food."

A reporter went to the Fragrance Park and encountered a young couple that tried to feed the peacocks. They said that they drove over ten kilometers to bring food after hearing the news.

## Race to save relics in water diversion project area

By Qiu Jiaoning

A total of 12 important cultural relics have been found in the 80-kilometer-long Beijing section of the south-to-north water diversion project.

The city is making every effort to rescue these cultural artifacts, according to the Beijing Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage (BMACH).

Kong Fanzhi, vice-director of BMACH, said that the planned excavation area exceeds 19,000 square meters. The 12 cultural relics come from a range of Chinese dynasties, Xia (2070-1600 BC) up to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911AD).

The central route will supply water to Beijing by 2007. Because of time constraints, excavations will be completed by the end of June, according to Song Dachuan, director of the Beijing Cultural Heritage Institute.

Excavation started with Nanzheng heritage site in Fangshan District. Archeologists have found many important cultural relics in 10 brick-chambered tombs from the Eastern Han Dynasty, three Han Dynasty kiln-sites, and six croft tombs from the Ming and Qing dynasties. Experts say that 200 relics will be restored.

A total of 788 cultural heritage sites will be affected by the south-north water diversion project. Chinese cultural heritage departments and water resources departments are joining forces to rescue ancient relics and minimize the damage done by the project.



Photo by William Wang



# Bright future ahead for Beijing snowboarding



International fans rock hard at the 4th Snickers Nanshan Open

Photos by William Avedon

By Annie Wei

Although China has never been known for snowboarding, some snowboarding enthusiasts are trying to build a scene in Beijing.

Last weekend, over two hundred snowboarding fans and 20 top boarders from China and overseas gathered to put on a great spectacle at the 4th Snickers Nanshan Open.

On Sunday, the ten best competitors from the previous day boarded with international pros from all over the world. The local boarders are from all over the world, but live in Beijing. They include Alan Wong, who is Chinese but grew up in the States, Andrew Wilde from New Zealand, and Yin Di, one of the best female boarders from China. They and the pros, like Jonte Edvardson (Sweden), who did the most stylish grabs, Mone Monsberger (Austria) and Jonas Emery (France) made the crowd

go wild as they destroyed the Nanshan Mellow Park.

This was the second year the Nanshan Open invited pros to snowboard with Chinese boarders. The contest was a 'jam session' format, meaning boarders take as many runs as they can during a 45-minute period. The pros judged the locals and the locals judged the pros.

It was a good chance to see the best boarding in the country mixed with mind boggling tricks from foreign pros, all this while Reflector (a local band) filled everyone's ears with local punk rock.

The event was organized by Nokia Mellow Park, the first snowboarding park in Beijing. The park was designed and built by Mellow Construction Austria, an organization famous for 'roxy chicken jam' and 'redbull off rails.'

Most top boarders, aged from 17



Photo by Lu Jian

to 30, are from the Beijing area because not that many places can afford to provide snowboard facilities. There are no parks except Wanlong one in Beijing, according to Steve Zdarsky. Steve, 27, from Austria, is the CEO of Mellow Construction in China and the event organizer.

Steve said that China's snowboarding industry is ready but the boarders and the level of snowboarding is not, as the sport is still new in China. Only one of the local boarders wants to go pro, and the rest are all busy working.

But to Steve and his girlfriend Ali Waugh, snowboarding will definitely be big in China sooner or later. Ali is from Canada and is also an ex-national team boarder. Right now she's working for Mellow Constructions and editing the first and only snowboard magazine in China: *Speed Snowboard*.

Steve came to China five or six years ago to study Chinese. During winter break he went to Yabuli, a famous skiing spot in North China, and found that there were only two snowboards and nobody knew what snowboarding was.

But he believes the development of snowboarding in Beijing is happening fast. Two international pros at the Nanshan Open last year also had the same impression: more and more snowboarding fans, an improvement in boarding skills, and greater media coverage. "Beijing is also China's snowboarding capital," Steve said.

Beijing has 13 skiing spots, the average income is higher than that of other northern cities, and snowboarding is the new trend for young people.

"It's a stylish sport now in Beijing," Steve said.

## BJ'S LOVE & HATE

This week *Beijing Today* gets two comments on small dogs in Beijing...

## I love to hate the Pekinese dogs!

By Christopher Parsons

Pekinese puppies look like rats when wet, which amuses me, and then they look like angels when blow-dried, which moves my heart. I love the effect my Pekinese 'Chou Chou' has on women as I walk him down the lane. (The way to a man's heart is through his stomach, but a way to a woman's heart, is with a cute puppy!) I love that Chou Chou has helped me find many a date! But I hate the reason why I had to name him Chou Chou (stinky, stinky).

I love the history of the Pekinese. The Pekinese comes from China and was bred originally as an obedient lap

dog and fun companion. Its origins can be dated back to the beginning of China and beyond. I hate how the little emperor dogs seem to know how much more important they are than we are. Man, I love to hate the Pekinese dogs!

I admire how the Pekinese were also known by the other names: the Lion Dog and the Peking Palasthund. The name Lion Dog comes from the fact that a Pekinese has the face of a lion. In fact Lion Dogs were sacred to a Lamaist form of Buddhism in China, of which the lion was a sacred symbol of Buddha. I dislike how Pekinese are

not as courageous as lions, unless you count the cowardly lion from the Wizard of Oz! I really do love to hate the Pekinese dogs!

I love it when my Pekinese rests on my lap on cold nights. This is partly for warmth, as a Pekinese dog's temperature is between 100.2 - 102.8 degrees Fahrenheit. Even so, I hate it that my dog's nose is still wet and cold.

I loved getting the expensive dog as a gift, but I hate the free gifts he leaves for me on the carpet in the mornings! Pekinese can cost up to a US\$1,000 in the West, but in Beijing a good bargainer can 'scoop' one up for 500 yuan. I

used the term 'scoop,' because 'scooping' is something you had better get used to if you buy a Pekinese.

I love how a Pekinese should only weigh from 8-14 pounds, but mine managed to reach over 20 pounds!

I find it unfortunate that Pekinese have a life expectancy of only 13-15 years. However, I will love it when mine beats the odds and I must put him in an old dog's home! Man, I hate to love the Pekinese dogs, but I do.

Keep Smiling!  
(Do you agree or disagree? Contact the author Parsons at parsons59@yahoo.com)

## Barking at the moon

By Niall O Murchadha

It's the time of the year where Beijing's small dog owners get to dress up their little bundles of joy in doggie clothes. Some of you may find this cute and endearing. I am not of that persuasion.

I suppose it is only the blistering heat and humidity that spares your average pedestrian this ghastly display during the summer. It probably only took a few cases of heat stroke to make

dog owners abandon this practice during the warmer months.

Without being a canine authority, I feel comfortable in asserting that most of these dogs can survive a Beijing winter without wearing clothes. And if they can't, then maybe they shouldn't be here. Look, you don't see Eskimos with pet lizards, and you don't see the Bushmen of Africa complaining about the lack of polar bears available for hunting.

So if the clothes are not function-

al, then they are decorative. This is where we get into dangerous territory and the hairs on the back of my head begin to rise. "Ah, look. He looks just like a little baby."

OK, so people are lonely and personifying their pets is cathartic, and all that. But seriously, there must be a line somewhere. Issuing commands to your pet and it understanding the tone of your voice is one thing. Rambling conversations with your dog is another. I have listened with growing alarm to people having conversations with their dogs, and yet no men in white coats come to drag them away to a better place.

I mean, what sort of response is expected? And how do you know that when it barks a 'response' it is saying, "Yes, I love my mummy." Maybe it's just saying, "Feed me, stupid human," or "You had better open a window, because this is going to be a bad one."

And yet if I were in Sanlitun at four in the morning, having an argument with a set of traffic lights, people would say I was mad!

Beijing must be careful not to cross the Rubicon. In America, people now bring their dogs to 'Pet Church' to be married with other dogs. You have to ask yourself, do you really want that? It's not too late to stop the madness.

## Do you raise pets?

By Xie Xiaolin

Many foreigners in Beijing like to raise cats, dogs or birds for fun, for love or out of sympathy. But some do not. So, why do you have a pet?

**Cho Jeen Kyn, Korea**

I have one big dog and he often frightens the visitors when he wants to welcome them.

**Dominic Findlow, UK**

I often fly between England, Beijing and the Middle East. I do not have pets only because I cannot take them with me.

**Ahihama Tanaka, Japan**

I raise one cat here because my children love it. It is quiet and lovely.

**Doug Allen, Canada**

I have two birds who sing everyday. And I'm planning to buy a dog from Canada, but I wonder if it'll adapt to the environment here and understand Chinese neighbors. Anyway, I worry how to apply for a certificate to raise the dog here.

**Riy Ono, Indonesia**

I love dogs and I have two in my own house, but not here in Beijing because I'm too busy with daily work to take good care of them. And I miss them sometimes.

**Stephanie Smith, Australia**

I don't. I dislike small animals.

**John Johnson, UK**

When a homeless cat walked up to me, I decided to raise her. She was thin and dirty at the time but she is clean now and is becoming fat. She is very clever and we often sit together under the sun in weekends.

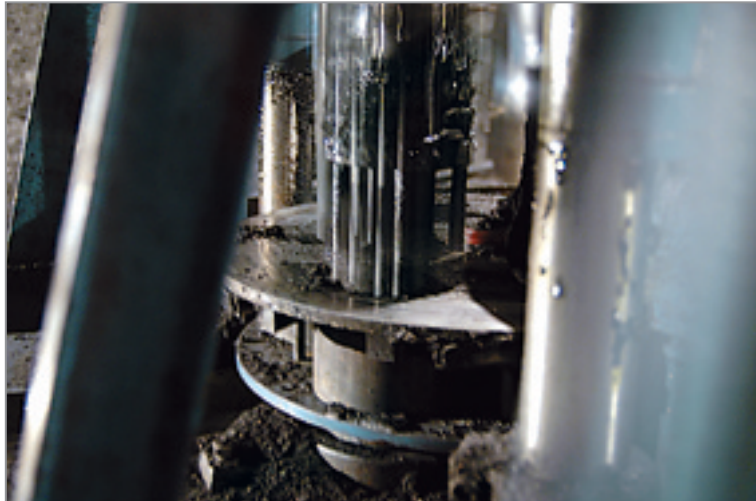




Preparatory work is labor intensive.



Water is important to everything.



Machinery is the key to producing high quality coal bricks.



High efficiency

# COAL BRICKS: WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?

By Baruh Kohen

Though many stay toasty thanks to internal heating systems nowadays, there's still a place for coal in the capital. For many it's their main fuel for staying warm and cooking. But how is it processed? Where does it come from? Here one photographer sneaks into a coal factory (they wouldn't let me in) to record the process.



A long road to send the coal bricks to every household for just eight jiao a piece

Baruh Kohen is an Israeli journalist and photographer living in Beijing.



Coal brick is made to strict standards.



Technicians weigh and measure coal bricks for sale.



Ready to go!





# Party animals wake up in China

By Shelley Xie

When the night comes, a certain group stirs from its slumber. They love bright outfits, dazzling make-up, noisy music, being drunk, and having fun together. They are the party animals of China.

Now many young people in the big cities of China, especially in Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou, throw themselves into the different types of parties. Economists see the phenomenon as a result of the commercial growth of China; sociologists take it as the evidence of the cultural habits of modern youth; westerners are thrilled at being members of the Chinese party animal brigade and enjoy the happy daze, which brings them back to the days of the big parties in their homelands during the 1990s.

Among the young adults, if you don't know what 'hong-pa' means (a Chinese abbreviation, meaning house party), you are out. If you are still called a party businessman, you are out. If you never kill your weekend nights with strangers, acquaintances, and friends around you, a wild heart, beers, screams, and rock and roll, you are totally out.

Because of its early contact with the outside world and the power of economic attraction, Shanghai seems to be the name *Ya Shanghai* (meaning the night of Shanghai). Girls in Shanghai become anxious if they think they are missing an interesting and fashionable party in some corner of the city.

From the big-name fashion parties, such as Loewe, Maxco and Vivianne Tam, which frequently take place every weekend on the Bund, to the weird parties at every possible location and time, the young chic set make the best use of their leisure time. To find popular club events in Shanghai, log on to shanghaiing.com.

Beijing is not far behind. Now is not the time of Sanlitun, but the bar streets along Houhai lake, the rock and roll domination in Banana, and the bloom of night-ly theme parties all over the city.

The warm atmosphere and the straightforward character of Beijingers offers a hot night's clubbing. Drinking beers, on the dance floor listening to world popular DJs, you will be on top of the world as the cocktails flow through your blood. Also, it's likely you will see some Mr. and Miss Famous next to you through the bottom of your beer glass. If you don't want to miss the latest parties in Beijing, go to the party discussion on voguezone.com.

Despite the parties held at the crowded clubs, in the open air, or at homes, theme parties attract the most attention from today's youth.

## Pajama Party

It is said that the pajama party comes from Shanghai, where people like to wear pajamas to go shopping. In a pajama party, everyone must wear pajamas. It can be a house party, where the girls happily fight each other with floppy pillows with soft, white down dancing in the air.

Or you can go to Bed Bar in Zhangwang Hutong, Gulou Street, where people lie together in pajamas on a big bed, talking and giving each other warm hugs. Owner Reid Mihalko intends to cure the loneliness of modern people in this friendly bar.

## Divorce Party

The divorce party is kind of celebration of a return to freedom, compared to the bachelor party marking the end of freedom before a wedding. Most guests are the host's friends or someone who has had the same experience. Some say it's good, because it provides channels to start a new marriage. But some believe inner sorrow is hidden by outer happiness.

## Muder Party

It originates from a game. A group of friends, usually up to five, will sit together performing the roles of judge, killer, cop and ordinary people. After saying "the night is coming, please close your eyes," people will guess each person's role from the language, and facial expressions. If they guess wrong, they will die. Xclub, next to the drive-in cinema on the eastern third ring road, is the only place that offers this game in Beijing.

## MYD Party

What is MYD? It's 'match your drink'. People who go to this party must bring one of their favorite beverages and wear matching clothes. So the girl in the black dress and black make up is holding coca cola; the man in a yellow suit should take beer. So think about what you should wear if you love pure water.

## Botox Party

Popular in the US for the last two or three years, it is now quickly gaining popularity in China. It's a kind of a spa party in the house of a doctor. The participants will be given botulinum toxin injection to reduce or remove facial wrinkles, while talking, drinking or listening to soft music. So invite some of your female friends to go a botox party in the Kunlun Hotel at the weekend.

## Make your home a party house



## Meniscus pint glass

By Richard Wentworth (UK)

Drinking is the happiest time for all participants, especially when a group of men sit together. Richard describes his gulp-notched glass as a device to measure pleasure - inspired by that oft-slurred phrase "I'll be with you as soon as I finish my drink."



## Mediterraneo

By Emma Silvestris for Alessi (Italy)

Fruit is a woman's best friend. So get your friends bring fruit, and you prepare the bowl. Inspired by the undersea world, Emma's fruit bowl is shaped like water grass, grasping the tasty fruits with you. Be careful: small cherries can slip through the gaps.

## Feel

By Animi Causa (Israeli)

'Feel' makes you really feel at home! Aren't you tired of being seated in one? Now all your friends can change the sofa's shape according to their emotional state. It's a grid of 120 soft balls that can be folded and arranged to create multiple sitting or reclining positions.

## Loudspeaker

By Bowers&Wilkins (UK)

A quality hi-fi speaker will guarantee the best sounds when you play loud music. The original B&W Nautilus is the result of five-years of a groundbreaking research and development program to achieve the perfect loudspeaker.



## Buena Sera Lights

By Georg Baldele (Austrian)

Fly Candle Fly series is the right thing to match the atmosphere of a warm family party. Whether hanging above the bar zone in the corner of your living room, or letting the yellow light spread all the room, this candle-like decoration is a must for any party.



## The party queen

In Shanghai, there is a 'room with a view' that is always beyond your wildest expectations. It is popular among the party animals and young artists because it creates illusions to fulfill your fantasies. Holly Zhao is the goddess behind these joyful dreams.

Nicknamed 'Party Queen' in *Elle China*, Zhao is famous for planning several novel parties in the Room with a View gallery - for instance, *Dudou* (the Chinese word for bra) Party, Tattoo Party, Army Uniform Party, and Pregnancy Party.

"As a party planner, I need to know what is fashion, instead of what is popular," she said. "I need to be simple. The inspiration for all my parties is that I like creating, imagining and living lives that exist in my mind. Don't you ever think that you are somebody else, or the princess of some fairy tale?"

While the gallery will never lose its artistic atmosphere, a brilliant and eye-catching theme is necessary to attract the attention of the media and the common people. So you can only experience these spectacles at Room with a View - a *dudou* not quite covering the beer belly of a man; a 'pregnant' man trying to bend and pick up things off the ground; body-drawings on your face, back or legs by both professional artists and your friends.

Having been a teacher, journalist, and businesswoman, she knows the needs of different group of participants and how to act as go-between to help these groups communicate. Each person always feels that they have a leading role.

"Modern people have no interest in merely eating-drinking-talking parties," she said. "They want to have a release and exchange their imaginations with each other. So what I do is find them a certain theme." There are no commercials featuring celebrities, prizes, luxury brands of wine and delicious food, but people find fun here, so they come.

In order to get people involved, access is free. Wearing some funny *dudou* and accessories handily made by Zhao on the stage, or a costume you tailored for the first time from a piece of cloth, you will find it's not the matter of being beautiful or ugly, but of absolute happiness. Therefore many of her parties have low budgets, but high reputations.

Fun and impromptu are two words Zhao uses to describe all her parties. "Every time, we'll find some new and interesting things during the party. I believe, what I want - every little sparkle of surprise - also make every participant satisfied."

You could not tell that this is a woman who has had two divorces. "I like love itself, but not a certain man." Now she cares more about her teenage son and daughter. She plans to become a babysitter if the art gallery closes the business. "Nothing could be more interesting than raising a child!" she said.

Zhao's secret is that to be a smart woman, you must know how to reduce your desires, in order to receive more surprises.



Holly Zhao



# IS IT A REALLY BEAUTIFUL NEW WORLD?

## An artistic dialogue between Lin Pey Chwen and Weng Peijun

By Han Manman

Today's art is obsessed with a question. As computer technology and urbanization threaten to make our lives intolerably convenient – where do we actually fit in? The world may look beautiful on the surface, but can we actually inhabit the beautiful new world?

An exhibition named *The Beautiful New World*, which selects artworks from Taiwanese artist Lin Pey Chwen and Hainan's Weng Peijun (also known as Weng Fen) will run January 7 through to February 28 at Dimensions Art Center in 798 factory, at Dashanzi.

This is a new exhibition that addresses contemporary social phenomena and focuses on two angles: the perspective of the advancement of urbanization and the problem of alienation from the environment, and the negative effects of ubiquitous technology.

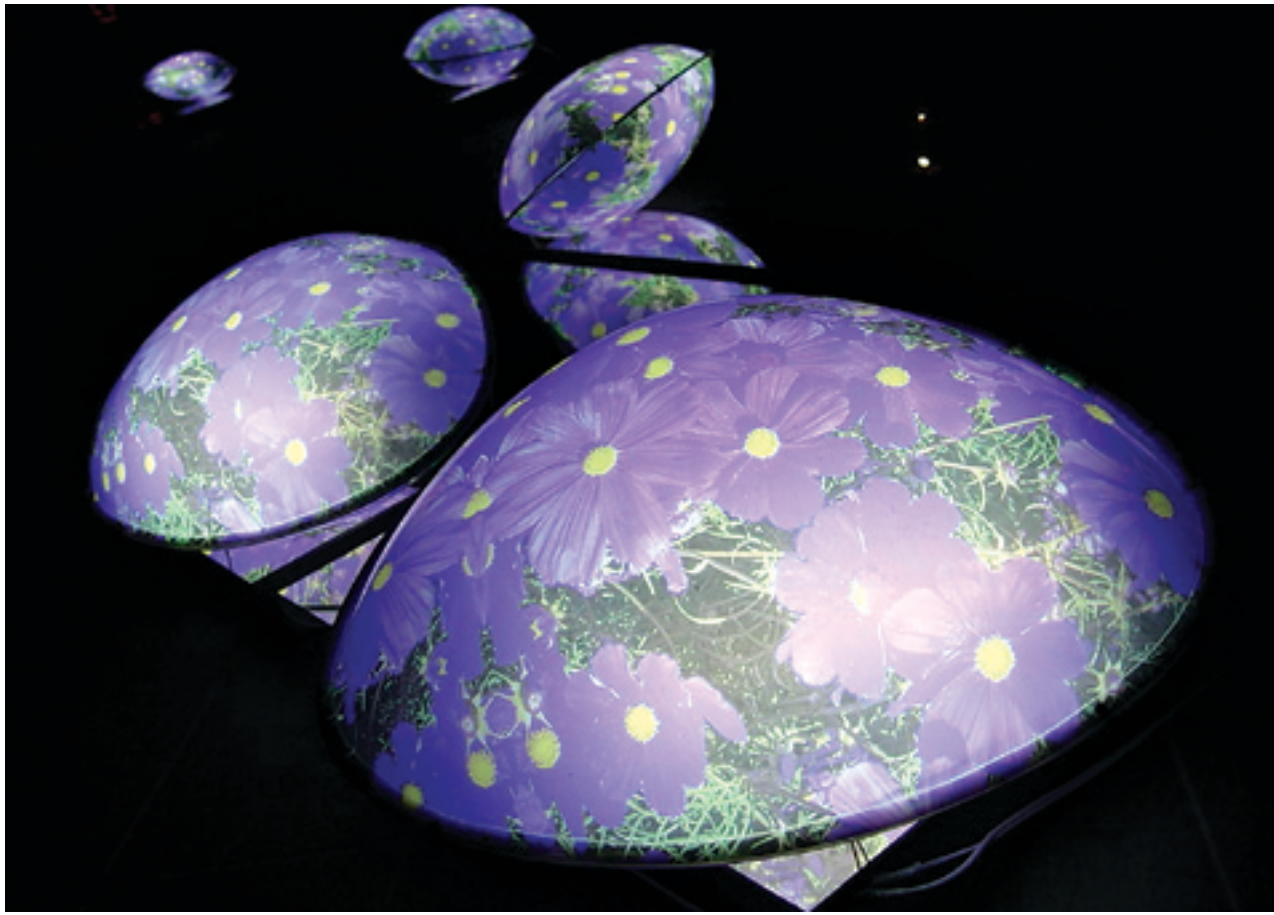
### Lin Pey Chwen: butterfly series-virtual beauty

This is the first time that Lin Pey Chwen has brought her artwork to Beijing. As a professor of Multimedia and Animation Arts, a director of the Digital Arts Lab in the National Taiwan University of Arts, Lin has concentrated mainly on digital electronic media in recent years. In particular, Lin has always shown deep concern about the issue of science and technology copying life, as is shown at the exhibition by her butterfly series.

The butterfly series comprises four parts: *Treasure*, *Catching*, *Specimens* and *Virtual Creation*. At the exhibition center, Lin invited us to a pitch-black space covered with butterfly imagery.

The first piece we saw was *Treasure*, which is made of shell-shaped light boxes with screen-printed flower patterns. Lin explained that it is named treasure because of its shell shape, and the idea was motivated primarily by the hope that mankind will treasure Mother Nature. "This is a work embodying both aesthetics and contradictions, as I emphasize that man-made products should not appear in the realm of Mother Nature, but humans just laugh at that," said Lin.

Giving each of us a pair of white gloves, Lin allowed us to catch butterflies, of course, just virtual ones. When we stretched out our hands, the virtual butterflies suddenly alighted in our hands. However, only when we squarely faced these exquisitely beautiful butterflies (as specimens on the wall) did



Treasure by Lin Pey Chwen



Looking at the Sea by Weng Peijun

we discover that they were all lifeless creatures created by computer technology.

"When you are involved in the joy of butterfly capture, just think about a question – what did you actually catch?" Lin asked.

Lin begins with people's liking for collecting butterflies, but uses the computer's capacity for copying to produce lifeless, beautiful butterflies, and makes each copied butterfly take on the appearance of the specimens. This prompts the audience to consider the profound anxiety inspired by the question of one's own ultimate position as a human in a scientific and technological civilization.

"Humans always try to play the role of lord of creation. They believe they can use science and technology to replace nature. This is why I created this installation work that would enable the audience to imitate a creator creating a butterfly," standing at a computer touch screen, Lin showed us her last work

– *Virtual Creation*.

"The beautiful virtual world just exists in this pitch-black room. If I switched off the power supply, everything would disappear. What I want to tell you through this exhibition is that sometimes the beautiful new world is just an illusion. Don't stay in a pitch-black room to create beauty. Just go back to nature!"

### Weng Peijun: Find your own understanding through your eyes

Two photographic works *Looking at the Sea* and *Bird's Eye View* by Weng Peijun (Weng Fen) have also been selected for the exhibition.

Born in Hainan in 1961 and currently teaching at Hainan University, Weng said, "Don't ask me what I want to tell the audience through the artwork, I never give an answer by myself. Everybody has his own understanding and my artworks only give questions without answers."

For a long time Weng has been

very concerned about the process of urbanization in China. Weng is an artist who is highly adept at using the canvas to tell a story. *Bird's Eye View* and *Looking at the Sea* present different images of cities. In *Bird's Eye View*, he introduces two uniformed schoolgirls, with their backs to the audience, thus inviting the audience, together with the schoolgirls, to see the high-rise offices and apartment buildings, many of which are still under construction, a familiar scene of Chinese urban change.

"Since my childhood, I have been enjoying looking down from high buildings. I believe everyone has different feelings when standing on high and looking down." *Look at the Sea* also features schoolgirls. Five schoolgirls sit or stand at a wall and looking at a wilderness of sea. What do they feel – longing or apathy?

When asked why he always uses schoolgirls in his work, Weng answered: "I am a teacher and teach students from freshman to seniors. I find girls at this age are longing for beautiful things and full of hope for everything when they first enter the university, however, their ideas change within one year, when they are no longer hopeful about their future."

"For me, this feeling that school girls have is like a sense of being lost or overwhelmed by the speed and scale of the social transformations taking place around city dwellers."

Perhaps, under the high-tech production and virtual images provided by computers, and under the shadow of tall buildings constantly under construction, the beautiful new world will be all the more difficult to pin down.

## Snow Wolf Lake legend ends

By Yu Shanshan

The first Saturday of 2006 witnessed the end of Jacky Cheung's *Snow Wolf Lake*. This beautiful musical brought down its curtain after a one-year tour of China, which simultaneously announced the final bow of Jacky Cheung in the lead role of Wolf.

As was Cheung's wish (he was also *Wolf's* art director), this musical may raise its curtain again in the future with a new cast, however, Chen Shufen, Cheung's agent and the producer, seems reluctant to see it happen. "Jacky is the soul of the musical. I cannot go on without him."

Jacky Cheung, 44, is known as the 'god of singing' in China. He rose to stardom as a pop singer in the early 1990s. In 1996, when he finished his 100th tour concert, Cheung thought about doing something new. The idea of *Snow Wolf Lake* occurred to him, so he went to New York to study musicals. The production of his own musical in Hong Kong took him another six months, and he finally took to the stage in Hong Kong on March 27 1997. The show was a sensation and ran for 42 performances.

When the Cantonese *Wolf* ended on May 9 1997, Cheung promised that he would take a Mandarin version to the Chinese mainland. The dream only became reality in mid 2004. "I am over 40. If I don't do it now, maybe I won't have a chance later," he said.

The *Wolf* howled into Beijing in the Capital Stadium on Christmas Eve 2004 and a 2005 tour of China soon followed.

Releasing only two original sound tracks (one in Cantonese and the other in Mandarin), Cheung never produced a DVD of the play, rather, he hoped people would go to the theater to watch it live. They managed to bring the musical to over 25 cities, including some smaller cities that never see pop concerts. Of course, no theater ever saw an empty seat.

Beijing was the first and last station of this journey, signing off 104 nights for *Wolf*, and a nine-year dream for Cheung and his fans.



Cheung as Lang and Xu as Xue Photo by Brook Wang

*Snow Wolf Lake* is a love legend, without anything related to the real world. The story centers on the female character, Xue (meaning Snow), who is loved by two men, rich Zhi and poor Lang (Lang meaning Wolf). Lang, meanwhile, is loved both by Xue and her older sister Feng. Ill fortune conspires to keep Xue and Lang apart, but finally they are brought together forever, with the death of Xue and Lang accompanying her into the next life.

Shouldering his pop singer fame, Cheung faced the question of whether this was a musical or a one-man show. There was no doubt many came to see Cheung – if only from the enthusiastic response from the audience every time he opened his mouth.

Fortunately, the production was always lavish – and the actual performance was worth its huge promotion budget. Rather than being for Cheung's fans, it's a play that has created more. His voice is more than just beautiful – people have noticed its dramatic power in the musical movie *Perhaps Love*. That's a voice you can sleep within.

The musical is connected by more than 30 traditional songs – no hip-hop, no R&B – just 30 pleasant songs, which together create a romantic atmosphere. Interspersed are short yet entertaining group dances: ballroom, Latin, or modern ones. The most amazing one is in the 'nightmare' part, when girls dressed in red (Xue's signature outfit) yet with white masks dance madly around Wolf (Cheung).

What's more, in some parts, the play creates a feeling of time flow as if in a movie. When the steam whistles by the imagined ship with Xue and Zhi gets away, we are left with sadness because we can never go back to their innocent, happy time.

There are contrasts between the two sets of Xue (Tang Can and Xu Huixin) and Feng (Chen Jieyi and Chen Songling). Tang, a well-known folk singer, gave us a tough Xue, while Xu, a Texas-born Taiwan-based singer, who was Xue in the final show, is sweeter of figure, (and singing and dancing). Singapore based Chen Jieyi had been playing Feng in the Cantonese version since 1997, and she has given the role a classic competence, which put pressure on the new Feng, Hong Kong actress Chen Songling, who used to be Xue in the Cantonese version. You can tell that Chen Songling tried hard to make her voice close to Chen Jieyi's, low and thick, but it never quite got there.

The goodbye show was sentimental – Cheung and his comrades shed tears on stage, and the audience tried to stay longer (until the guards came to drive them away). What's exciting is that Cheung's farewell to *Snow Wolf Lake* is not farewell to all his musical dreams. "I hope I can make at least two new musicals in the future," he said. Looking forward to it, Jacky. The legend of the singing god still isn't over.

## Rock for love

By Sabu Zhang

Last Friday a special charity show was held in New Get Lucky Bar to raise travel expenses for needy students from local colleges to return to their hometowns during the winter holiday. Thin Man, who initiated the event, put on an impressive performance entitled *Myriad Lights Twinkle, Love is Endless*.

Known as the 'kings of live' and seen as rock 'n' roll trailblazers in China, Thin Man's passionate and heartthrobbing live performances and funk-based music have won them numerous fans. Their first album *Thin Man I*, released in 1999, was a great hit in the 'down period' of the Chinese record industry. And their second album *Beijing Dream* was released in 2002. Their brilliant performances led them to major music festivals such as Midi Music Festival, Fuji Rock Festival, Liji-ang Snow Mountain Music Festival, Helanshan Music Festival and last year's Gegental Grasslands Music Festival.

As the warm-up band finished their songs, the



Dai Qin

Photo by Sabu Zhang

appearance of Thin Man – vocalist Dai Qiang, guitarist Guo Zhiyong, bassist San'er and drummer Hayato immediately drew the crowd to the dancing pool right in front of the stage.

Dai Qin – the soul of the band – stirred the crowd with his personal charisma and hard rock-ing performance.

The screen said 'All these sounds will be re-

membered, because of you and the love', and Dai Qin and the band proved it, with ardor.

When their new song *Myriad Twinkling Lights* was played, the audience was heated up to climax. They pogoed and cheered until the floor was shaking like a trampoline. The winter chill was further melted when their old song *Thin Men* called for even more response. Dai Qin played the tambourine as he sang, with his energy and passion ran through his voice, while guitarist Guo Zhiyong, who is also the lead singer of band Battle-Axe, sang along with him. Twenty-two-year-old Japanese drummer Hayato showed his talent with stimulating beats. And bass player San'er outlined every song with his steady rhythms.

The fever didn't subside until the donation ceremony was held when the six students chosen from different colleges showed up on stage.

The whole night was bathed in affection and warmth, though the music was strong, it was all about love and hope, loneliness and confusion. Dai Qin said at last, "This event aims to tell young people that love exists between us and we should give a hand to others."

On Thin Man's new album, they pay more attention to humanity and society and seem to have found their role, spreading love through music.

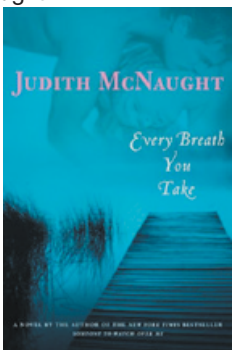


## Bestseller booklists 2nd week Jan.

by Jia Ting

## US – New York Times Bestsellers

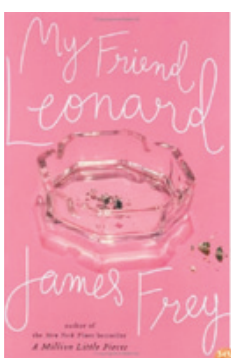
1. *S Is For Silence*, by Sue Grafton
2. *The Da Vinci Code*, by Dan Brown
3. *Mary, Mary*, by James Patterson
4. *At First Sight*, by Nicholas Sparks
5. *Every Breath You Take*, by Judith McNaught



(When the grandson of a Chicago philanthropist disappears, suspicion falls on the wrong man.)

## Amazon.com Bestsellers

1. *A Million Little Pieces* (Oprah's Book Club), by James Frey
2. *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*, by Thomas L. Friedman
3. *My Friend Leonard*, by James Frey



(A gangster, raconteur and mentor, Leonard was introduced in Pieces as one of Frey's new rehab friends.)

4. *For Laci: A Mother's Story of Love, Loss, and Justice*, by Sharon Rocha
5. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

## UK – The Guardian Bestsellers

1. *The Broker*, by John Grisham
  2. *The Da Vinci Code*, by Dan Brown
  3. *Angels and Demons*, by Dan Brown
  4. *Echoes*, by Danielle Steel
  5. *Deception Point*, by Dan Brown
- (The time is now and President Zachary Herney is facing a very tough re-election.)

## France – Fnac.com Bestsellers

1. *Les Chroniques de Narnia – Le Monde de Narnia (The Chronicles of Narnia – The World of Narnia)*, by Clive Staples Lewis
2. *Lanfeust des Etoiles – T5 (Lanfeust, The Stars – Volume 5, Comic Book)*, by Tarquin and Arleston
3. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (French Version)*, by J.K. Rowling
4. *Trois Jours Chez Ma Mere (Three Days At My Mother's)*, by Francois Weyergans

5. *Lunar Park*, by Bret Easton Ellis and Pierre Guglielmina

## Germany – Amazon.de Bestsellers

1. *Das kleine Buch vom wahren Glück (The Little Book From the Preserved Fortune)*, by Anselm Grün



2. *Der Scharm (The Swarm)*, by Fran Schatzing
3. *Der Schatten des Windes (The Shadow of The Wind)*, by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

4. *Die Chirurgen (The Surgeon)*, by Tess Gerritsen and Andreas Jager
5. *Der Dativist dem Genitiv sein Tod (The Time of Dative Being Genitive Is Dead)*, by Bastian Sick

## China – Joyo.com Bestsellers

1. *Running with Scissors: A Memoir*, by Augusten Burroughs
2. *Manual of Human Body*, by Wu Qingzhong
3. *The Ideal City*, by Han Han
4. *Decipher 'The Dream of Red Chamber' – Volume 2*, by Liu Xinwu
5. *You Are What You Eat*, by Dr. Gillian McKeith

# A complete *Lolita* comes to China

By Wang Xiaoyuan

A complete translation of Nabokov's classic *Lolita* will be released this month. One of the most famous novels of the 20th century, the dark satire stands alongside *In Search of Lost Time* and *Ulysses* as one of the master works of the last 100 years.

The book, written in English by the Russian writer Vladimir Nabokov, who emigrated to America in his youth, used to be banned in many countries for its eroticism and taboo subject matter. Although it has never been banned in China, lack of knowledge of its background and ideological discrepancies has led to several versions being published since 1989. Missing chapters and translation mistakes were common. Some translators even replaced the original sexual descriptions with their own writings.

The complete *Lolita*, with an introduction by Dr. John Ray from 1955, is published by Shanghai Translation Publishing House without any abridgement. This translation is also the last work of the famous translator Mr. Zhu Wan, who was one of the most impor-



Vladimir Nabokov

tant experts in Nabokov study. Mr. Zhu, in his life, has translated masterpieces including works by Saul Bellow, DH Lawrence, Lytton Strachey and Charles Dickens.

Translating *Lolita* took Zhu nearly five years. Besides being true to the original work, he also added about 800 notes to explain certain words, compare with other translations and decode phrases used by Nabokov within his specific cultural background. The original passages in German, French or Latin in the book are also attached for readers' reference. Zhao Wuping, from the Shanghai Translation Publishing House said, "All we have done is to try to present the soul of the book to our readers as much as possible."

*Lolita*, has roused arguments among readers, critics and academics since it was first published in Paris in 1955. The American version was published in 1958 to immediate criticism for its descriptions of fornication. It is still rejected by some public libraries in conservative towns. The movie adapted from the book has never been shown in public cinemas in the American South.

# The regeneration of the *Goteborg*

– A new book evokes the age of sailing

By Han Manman

The Swedish cargo vessel *Goteborg* sank mysteriously within sight of home 260 years ago, taking its precious cargo of Chinese porcelain, silk and tea to the bottom of the sea.

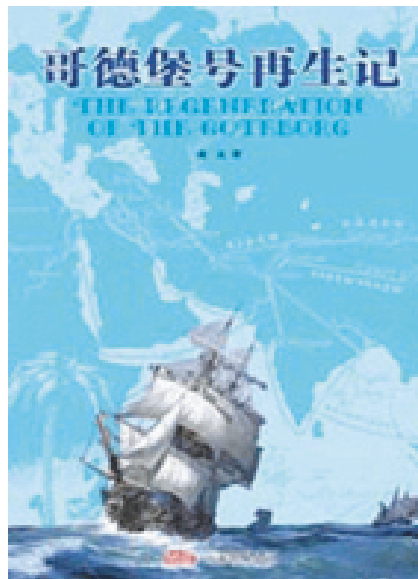
260 years later, the replica merchant ship *Goteborg III* began her two-year maiden voyage last October. She is following the route of the original 18th century ship and sailing into the east.

Recording the mysterious voyage, the pirates, the ancient empire, and a newly discovered continent, and standing as a testament to

55 years of good relations between China and Sweden, the book *The Regeneration of the Goteborg* is about to hit the shelves.

It tells the entire story from the *Goteborg's* sinking to her regeneration, with all the historical and geographical background you need to fully immerse yourself in the age of the great sailing ships.

The voyage is now taking the *Goteborg* to Brazil, then to South Africa, Australia and Indonesia, and will reach Guangzhou and Shanghai in July this year.



## What's on local shelves

## CNPIEC Book Store



## Everyone Worth Knowing

By Lauren Weisberger

384 pages 80 yuan

Another cautionary tale of sex, power, and fame by Lauren Weisberger, the author of the bestselling debut *The Devil Wears Prada* outed the vicious antics of the magazine industry elite. This time around, the PR industry is her target.

## This Green Land

By John Fullerton

352 pages 90 yuan

Two young British men meet in the battle fields of Lebanon. Beautifully written, far from the usual potboiler you get with genre spy thrillers.

## All My Sisters

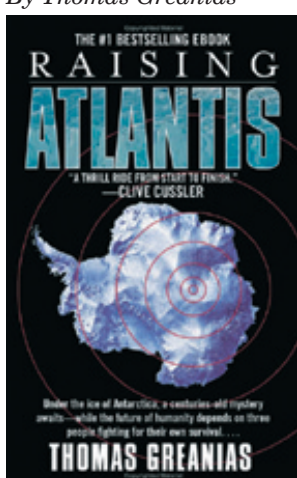
By Lennox Judith

500 pages 90 yuan

What values are best for women? Four sisters pursue marriage, love, independence, and family during the days prior to and during World War I. A marvellous novel written by one of the best family saga writers.

## Raising Atlantis

By Thomas Greanias



352 pages 80 yuan

An astonishing book full of scientific fact and fiction, suspense, and good old-fashioned adventure.

Thomas Greanias is a superb writer who knows how to tell a tale with style and substance. Thoroughly entertaining.

**Where:** 2nd floor of China National Publications Import & Export Corporation, 16 Gongti Dong lu

Tel: 6500 1859

## Bookworm:

## White Gold

By Giles Milton

280 pages 80 yuan

An accessible account of the little-known, yet fascinating Moroccan white slave trade of the 17 and 18th centuries. One of the 'easiest' historical reads, owing to the author's clever and balanced use of language and tempo. The reader gets a great historical insight, bound together with the tale of a cabin boy's adventure.

## Pomegranate Soup

by Marsha Mehran

314 pages 165yuan

A story of how three charming women break up the foggyism and patriarchy with their tantalizing exotic food. The language makes Ireland never so beautiful and full of humor, hope and possibility.

**Where:** Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6589 9507



## Review

## The Economist Style Guide

Profile, 250 pages



Most newspapers and magazines issue their contributors with a style guide. Writers, be they on staff or freelance, then know whether a publication's house style requires % or per cent or commas in dates. Sometimes it's just a tatty sheet of typed A4 but since 1986 *The Economist* has developed its stylish Style Guide, through six editions, into a full length reference book. *The Economist's* guide is too long for practical purposes and has been padded out to acceptable book length with abbreviations and acronyms. But it is packed with good sense. This handy reference book provides a miscellany of useful information including abbreviations, currencies, calendars and conversions for metric and imperial measurements. (*Guardian*)

## Linger Awhile

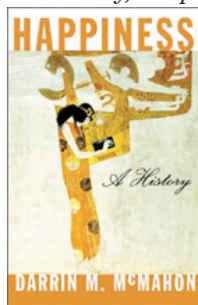
By Russell Hoban, Bloomsbury, 176 pages



*Linger Awhile*, is the blessed 14th novel by Russell Hoban who turns 81 next month and remains by far the most imaginative novelist in Britain. Twenty-six years after the publication of his masterpiece, *Riddley Walker*, a book that conjured post-nuclear England in a form of corrupted English as brilliantly refigured as its landscape, Hoban's scenic ambit has narrowed but his powers show no signs of abating. This latest in which three old men share a fantasy and give it life until it sucks the life out of them, bristles with the genially wayward delight that has always characterized Hoban's stories. There is a kosher Chinese restaurant and a cameo appearance from the prophet Elijah. (*Independent*)

## Happiness: A History

By Darrin M. McMahon, Atlantic Monthly, 544 pages



This deeply philosophical book takes many side jaunts on its intellectual safari, but its text is grounded in a series of gracefully written commentaries on a cast of immortal excogitators including Aristotle, Augustine, Calvin, Luther, Locke, Rousseau, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Mill, Marx, Darwin and Freud. It quietly raises fundamental questions on the scale of: Is life worth living? At the same time, the book is a scintillating course in the history of ideas that invites us to consider paintings, poetry, even the plaster mask of Beethoven. As he contemplates the changing representations of happiness from the halos of 14th century painter Giotto Biandolini to the smiling faces of the 1970s, McMahon charts perturbations in the concept as it relates to pleasure, pain and melancholy. (*Los Angeles Times*)

By Wang Chun

## Journalistas: 100 Years of the Best Writing and Reporting by Women Journalists

Carroll &amp; Graf, 364 pages



Two British journalists have assembled an edifying, historically astute, yet still entertaining collection of pieces written by women from diverse periodicals throughout the 20th century-from both sides of the Atlantic. Their choice of writers, including Martha Gellhorn, Rebecca West, Susan Sontag and Mary McCarthy, as well as a number of British writers, is superb. The book is divided into subject areas. So-called women's concerns dominate the subject categories, such as "Home & Family" and "Sex & Body Image", although the most riveting selections cover war and politics. (*New York Times*)

## The Absolute at Large

By Karel Capek, University of Nebraska Press, 242 pages



The great Czechoslovak writer Karel Capek was one of the great eclectics, and his art was most at home among the seemingly foreign. He wrote about aliens and robots, about religion as industrial pollutant. He died in Prague in 1938, three months shy of springtime and the Nazi occupation. In March 1939, Hitler was spending nights at Kafka's castle, which overlooked the fresh grave of a genius no less intense. *The Absolute at Large* goes beyond the religious fervor of Nazism and the emergence of a free market too wild for any known west. Capek offers the tale of a machine capable of generating limitless energy that also releases the unknown spiritual essence locked inside physical matter, with cataclysmic results. (*Village Voice*)

## The Worst Hard Time

By Timothy Egan, Houghton Mifflin, 340 pages



As he reached back more than 70 years to chronicle America's epic dust storms, Timothy Egan couldn't have known his book would be released on the heels of hurricane Katrina. The weather patterns of today's Gulf Coast are completely different from those of the Depression-era Dust Bowl of the Great Plains. But the human stories are kin. The book depicts physical hardship on a larger scale than anything in recent American memory. In a literal No Man's Land - the chunk of Oklahoma tucked between Kansas, Texas, Colorado, and New Mexico - some of Egan's real-life characters struggle for years not only to survive, but simply to breathe. In frequent storms, millions of tons of dirt rain down from wind-whipped clouds, half burying homes and seeping in even through cracks covered with wet sheets. (*Christian Science Monitor*)



# Keep warm and strong in the cold weather



Milk porridge

By Lou Li

As it is getting biting cold in Beijing, we are already in the *jieqi* Slight Cold and expecting the *jieqi* (Great Cold) to come next Friday.

*Jieqi* are days marking one of the 24 time zones of the solar year on the traditional Chinese calendar. *Jieqi* was used to indicate the alternation of seasons and climate changes in ancient China. Originating in the Yellow River reaches, it reflected our ancestors' knowledge about climate changes during their farming activities.

The 24 *jieqi* (solar terms) have 15 days each. Slight Cold, the 23rd of the solar terms, falls on around January 5 each year. Great Cold, the last of the solar terms, falls on around January 20. They are both named to describe the coldness of the period. An ancient Chinese saying goes like this, 'Slight Cold and Great Cold, Freezing Cold'. Literally, Great Cold is colder than Slight Cold. But according to the climate records of the past, Slight Cold is actually the coldest solar term of the 24 *jieqi*. Although Great Cold is not as cold as Slight Cold, it is still quite chilly.

Winter, especially deep winter (Slight Cold and Great Cold), is the time to limit most physical activities and eat well to nourish our body. To fight the cold temperature, it is necessary to eat more fatty and meaty foods. Our body can better absorb rich nutritional foods at this time due to the slower metabolic rate.

Chinese people have always enjoyed the pleasure of eating good food while at the same time nourishing the body and preserving good health. This tradition of combining eating with health care dates from thousands of years ago and developed into a Chinese food therapy. Food therapy is a careful combination of daily meat and vegetables, Chinese herbs and nutritious foods, taking into consideration the nature of seasonal changes and an individual's health balance, whether they belong to the 'Yin' or the 'Yang' side.

According to Chinese food therapy, chicken, mutton, pork and abalone are most common in making winter tonics, with 'Yang' nurturing herbs such as ginseng, deer horn and cordyceps. However, for people who are either too 'Yin' and too 'Yang', they should use warm herbs such as Chinese yams, wolfberries, American ginseng, glehnia and Solomon's seal instead to regulate balance.

The following are very popular winter recipes handed down by ancient Chinese people to fight the cold and to strengthen the body's resistance for another healthy new year. One amazing feature of these recipes is that they are delicious, effective and



Three vegetables mix



Tonic winter food restaurants



Strengthen the body with mutton soup

Photos by Lou Li

above all, easy to make at home.

## Deng Shen mutton soup

### Ingredients:

Deng shen (a traditional Chinese herb): 40g; dried longan fruit: 40g; mutton: 640g; 10 pitted red dates; ginger: 4 slices

### Directions:

1. Wash mutton and cut into pieces (2" cubes).  
2. Put in boiling water to rinse

for a few minutes, remove and drain.

3. Soak red dates for about 10 minutes. Rinse herbs.

4. Put all ingredients in a pot with adequate water (about 3 liters) and bring to a boil.

5. Remove foam, reduce heat and simmer for 3 hours until there are about 3 cups of soup remaining.

6. Add seasoning to serve. Eat meat with soup as the main course of dinner.

### Therapeutic effects:

It is a winter tonic suitable for all ages. It is for general weakness, cold extremities and lack of energy. It strengthens the body and immune system, and improves energy and appetite.

### Chinese yam mutton soup

#### Ingredients:

Mutton: 500g; Chinese yam 150g; ginger; shallot; pepper; Shaoxing rice wine (from Shaoxing, east China's Zhejiang Province); salt

#### Directions:

1. Wash mutton and cut into pieces (2" cubes)  
2. Put in boiling water to rinse for a few minutes, remove and drain.

3. Wash the ginger and shallot.  
4. Slice the yam and add it to the mutton.

5. Put enough water to cover the yam and the mutton. Add other ingredients.

6. Boil them over big heat and then stew them over medium heat till they are thoroughly cooked.

### Therapeutic effects:

It is a tonic for the spleen and stomach as well as being beneficial to the lungs and kidneys.

### Three vegetables mix

#### Ingredients:

Dried mushrooms, 75g; 2 green peppers; 1 carrot; Salad oil; sugar; yellow wine; monosodium glutamate; salt; starch; broth; sesame oil

#### Directions:

1. Soak and clean the dried mushrooms.

2. Wash the green peppers and the carrot. Cut them all into filament-like shapes.

3. Heat the oil and add the three vegetables.

4. Stir-fry the vegetables, add yellow wine and sugar and continue to stir-fry.

5. Add broth and some salt.

6. Add monosodium glutamate when it is boiled. Add starch with some water and sesame oil.

### Therapeutic Effects:

It strengthens spleen and hydrates the whole body.

### Loofah Tomato Porridge

#### Ingredients:

Loofah 500g; Three tomatoes; rice 100g; shallot; ginger; salt; monosodium glutamate

#### Directions:

1. Wash and peel the loofah.  
2. Wash the tomatoes and cut into pieces.

3. Wash the rice and boil it.

4. Reduce the heat and continue to cook it.

5. When it is 80 percent cooked, add loofah, ginger and shallot and salt.

6. Add tomatoes and monosodium glutamate when it is totally cooked.

7. Stew for a while before being served.

### Therapeutic Effects:

It reduces phlegm, alleviates fevers and stops coughing.

### Angelica Ginger Mutton Soup

#### Ingredients:

Angelica 30g; ginger 30g; mutton 500g

#### Directions:

1. Wash and slice the angelica and the ginger.

2. Bone the mutton and wash it.

3. Cut the mutton into pieces.

4. Put the mutton in boiling water to rinse for a few minutes, remove and drain.

5. Put the mutton into an earthen pot and cover it with water.

6. Add the angelica and the ginger. Cook them over big heat.

7. Then reduce the heat and braise them for ninety minutes.

8. Take the angelica and the ginger out, leaving only the soup and the mutton.

### Therapeutic Effects:

It takes the chill off and enriches the blood.

### Chinese wolfberry pseudo-ginseng hen

#### Ingredients:

Chinese wolfberries 15g; Pseudo-ginseng 10g; 1 hen; ginger 20g; shallot 30g; shaoxing rice wine 30g; pepper; monosodium glutamate

#### Directions:

1. Prepare a hen and get rid of the internal organs.

2. Wash the Chinese wolfberries.

3. Grind four grams of the pseudo-ginseng and slice the other six grams.

4. Slice the ginger and cut the shallot into pieces.

5. Put the hen in boiling water to rinse for a few minutes, remove and drain.

6. Fill the stomach of the hen with Chinese wolfberries, sliced pseudo-ginseng, sliced ginger and shallot.

7. Sprinkle some pepper and the ground pseudo-ginseng on the hen.

8. Steam the hen with broth over big heat for two hours.

### Therapeutic effects:

It helps to get rid of fragility and enrich the blood, and is suitable for elderly people and women who become fragile after periods or childbirth.

### Filiform carrots with sugar and vinegar

#### Ingredients:

Carrots 250g; ginger; sugar; vinegar; monosodium glutamate; salad oil

#### Directions:

1. Wash the carrots and cut it into filament-like shapes.

2. Cut the ginger into filament-like shapes.

3. Heat the oil and add the ginger.

4. When the scent of ginger comes out, add the carrots and stir-fry for two minutes.

5. Add vinegar, sugar and stir-fry until 80 percent ready.

6. Add salt. Add Monosodium glutamate when it is thoroughly cooked.

### Therapeutic effects:

It brings down the blood pressure and tranquilizes all five internal organs of the body.

Modern medical research shows that carrots help bring down blood pressure and are beneficial for people troubled by hypertension. Carrot juice is also helpful.

### Milk porridge

#### Ingredients:

Milk 250g; rice 100g;

#### Directions:

1. Wash the rice and boil it.

2. Reduce the heat and continue to cook it till it is 60 percent ready.

3. Pour the milk into it. Boil them together to porridge.

### Therapeutic effects:

It facilitates expectoration, eases constipation and enriches the blood.

By Veronica Smith

Last week, we asked, "What do Mr. Broccoli and James Bond have in common?" If you pay close attention the next time you watch a 007 movie you will notice that up until *GoldenEye* they all open with the words "Alberto R Broccoli presents..." Yes, Mr. Broccoli was the original producer! Contrary to popular myth, the Broccoli family was never involved in broccoli harvesting or sale; broccoli means 'branch' in Latin and is also an Italian family name. But if you need a good story to convert a broccoli-hater then you could say that without Mr. Broccoli James Bond would not have been so clever!

There is some truth to it, because if you want to be attractive, smart and strong like one of Ian Fleming's characters then eating

## Veronica's Recipes Broccoli: stirred, not shaken

broccoli is a good place to start; the calcium will give you great teeth and a gorgeous smile, vitamin A to give you good night vision, vitamin C will counter-attack that nasty cold, and fiber will keep you on time! There is another way to convert a broccoli-hater and that is to cover it with cheese, so here is an easy cheese sauce in case the James Bond ruse doesn't work:

**Ingredients:** 2 tablespoons butter; 1-2 tablespoon flour; 1 cup of hot (not boiled!) milk and 1 cup of grated cheddar cheese, salt and pepper (optional dash of Worcester sauce)

**Directions:** This dish is prepared on a very low heat; milk for the sauce should never boil. In small saucepan melt the butter but do not brown it, add the flour and mix well. Slowly add the hot milk stirring continuously. Keep stirring until the sauce thickens, about 10-15 minutes. Then, add the cheese, salt, pepper and Worcester stir and continue to stir. This sauce can be used directly, or you can pour it over the broccoli and grill in the oven for a few minutes. This gives the cheese a nutty flavor.

### 干酪酱

原料: 2大汤匙黄油、1-2大汤匙面粉、1杯热牛奶(但不要沸腾的)、1杯磨碎的切达干酪、盐和胡椒粉(还可选择准备少许伍斯特沙司)

做法: 整个制作过程使用文火, 不可以使牛奶沸腾。在一小蒸锅中将黄油融化但不要使其成褐色, 加入面粉均匀混合。慢慢加入热牛奶并不断搅拌。一直搅拌10-15分钟至其变得粘稠, 然后加入干酪、盐、胡椒粉和伍斯特沙司并均匀混合。此干酪酱可以直接使用, 也可浇在花椰菜上然后在烤炉中烘烤数分钟, 这可使干酪具有坚果香味。

Translated by William King

Question: I could be a fruit or I could be a funny looking bird and I am not an Australian; what is my name? For the answer see next week's Beijing Today.

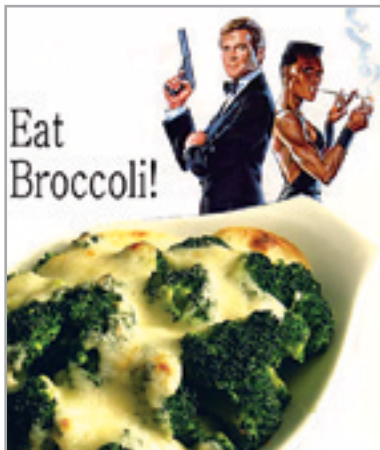


Photo by Liu Xiaojun



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# “You’d never believe it could happen...” — strange career happenings in 2005

By Xie Xiaolin

2005 saw unprecedented growth in the labor market, which in turn, meant lots of unusual things happening. Here we pick the unique moments from another crazy year for careers.

## Managers of multinationals headhunted

Under the fierce pressure from local rivals, multinational companies are taking steps to prevent employees from being head-hunted by stronger native enterprises. Firms like Haier and China Netcom have head-hunted senior staff from global consulting firms like McKinsey & Co. Aaron Tong from Motorola has transferred to TCL, Tangjun from Microsoft to Shenda Entertainment, and Jean Cai from Ogilvy to Lenovo.

## ‘Role Model’ encounters morality crisis

“Be Your Best!” is the famous motto of Dr. Kaifu Lee. Lee grew up from a junior IT program analyst to vice CEO of Microsoft. His story has a powerful influence on the university students in China. But one year after vowing to serve Microsoft for the rest of his life, Lee’s hopped to Google China. Students have been left puzzled as to the real value of professional morality.

## ‘Salary alliance’ says no to low

At the summer recruitment fairs in the cities of Hangzhou, Shanghai and Beijing, university students and fresh graduates joined hands to declare that they will say no to monthly wages under 1,500 yuan. But employers are laughing at the action, calling it ‘career utopia’ because in today’s China, the supply of graduates is far greater than the demand.

## Talent search for search engines

‘Search engine’ has gone from a technical term to a promising career last year. Aside from IT graduates, students of finance, law and foreign languages are also pouring to this sector. In September 2005, search giants like Google, Microsoft and Yahoo recruited simultaneously on campuses and received a very warm welcome.

## Masters and PhDs pouring into Beijing

Beijing still seems the destination of choice for many academically senior job seekers. At a job fair especially for masters and PhD holders last summer, over 50,000 top grads from around the country scrambled for the jobs. They cared less about the role than the location of Beijing as the nation’s capital. A junior teaching vacancy



The fierce pressure on the labor market is distorting traditional moralities.

Photo by sina.com

with a monthly wage of 2,000 yuan in the Beijing countryside will attract dozens of competitors.

## IBM: DO NOT talk to strangers!

IBM warned its staff ‘not to talk to strangers on the street’ after one was robbed and killed. Other warnings include ‘keep your mobile phone in a safe place’, ‘do not use backpacks and small bags’ and ‘stay away from roads accessible to motorcycles’.

## ‘Our students only’

Enterprises, both local and overseas, are searching for potential students on campuses during summer and winter vacations. But more and more schools are preventing students from other schools from attending. The schools have their reasons, “the labor market is much too competitive.”

## Technicians more important

Senior technicians are certainly hotter than the Beijing weather today in China. They are surpassing managers, even senior managers, in terms of salary and welfare packages. Chongqing provides comprehensive insurance, 13 holidays with full pay, and free further study abroad for the senior technicians they so desperately need. The monthly salary ranges between 8,000 and 100,000 yuan.

## ‘PhD Tower’ attracts no PhDs

Many cities are using cash and houses to attract PhDs to leading academic and professional roles. Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province, built a high apartment building to attract PhDs but received no responses. Market analysts warn that cash and welfare is only factor. Working conditions, environment and prospects are more important.

## Overseas professionals are coming

As of the end of 2005, China has employed 2.5 million foreign workers (always called ‘experts’ in China). Over 250,000 foreign experts are working in China under contract. The number is increasing by 20 percent annually.

Meanwhile, more overseas Chinese students are returning home after graduation.

“It’s all because of the prospering Chinese economy,” a market analyzer explained.

## Seeking Jobs

Female, 24, a native university graduate with two years experience as a office clerk, is seeking a part-time job as an English guide and accompany.  
yubrcj@yahoo.com.cn

I am a PhD student in GUCAS (Institute Of MicroElectronics) looking for a part time job.

I have 5 years of teaching experience in Pakistan. Sheraz Anjum at 82847120, 13581806434

Need a Magical Birthday Clown?

Magic shows, magic class, face painting, treasure hunts and much, much more!

Special deals for charities, hospitals and schools. Email Mr. Magic at: parsons59@yahoo.com

A native Chinese university student, with one year experience as a Chinese tutor to foreigners is seeking a job as a language teacher.  
layla8311@yahoo.com.cn

Female, 44, looking for a job as an accountant, cashier, or warehouse manager. 13552517749, 6732 7217

Wayne Tian is looking for a job related to mechanics and electronics. He has good English speaking and listening skills. 13811508491, 6524 5508

Ivan Young, a new graduate from Beijing International Study University, is looking for a job as a business interpreter, management assistant, public relations officer, HR officer, or office secretary. ivan1339@ sina.com, 13811243074

Jenny Li, a graduate from the University of International Business and Economics, is looking for a job as an interpreter or an international trade salesperson. 13611163663, jennyli63663@2911.net

Female, Beijinger, 29, certificated public accountant, fluent in both written and spoken English, is looking for a full-time job related to finance, or a part-time job related to English. lily948@hotmail.com 83477009.

## Vacancies

Novotel Zhongguancun Beijing (under pre-opening) is looking for a Human Resources Director/ Manager:

\* Previous experience in a 4 or 5 star international hotel would be a plus

\* Fluent written and spoken English.

\* Good communication and organization skills.

\* Able to manage, train and motivate the team.

Interested applicants, please send CV and motivation to :  
gm@novotelbeijingzgc.com

Novotel Zhongguancun Beijing (under pre-opening) is looking for an IT Director/ Manager, interested candidates, please send CV and motivation to :

gm@novotelbeijingzgc.com

The Southern Industrial Zone, Bincheng District, Binzhou, Shandong Province, is looking for two reps and five consultants in Beijing. Contact: Mr. Chen at 13561569235

(Send positions offered and wanted info to: ayi@ynet.com. Beijing Today does not take any responsibility for the accuracy or authenticity of the information published.)

## 218 bln yuan planned for rural education

China will spend 218 billion yuan (US\$27.25 billion) to help improve the country’s rural education in the next five years.

The fund will be jointly provided by both the central and local governments, according to Premier Wen Jiabao.

In the next two years, China will also exempt all the education fees for the students in the compulsory education period and provide free textbooks and subsidies for students from needy families.

At the same time, a mechanism will be established to ensure the wages of teachers with middle or elementary schools in rural areas.

“The use of the fund should be carefully managed so that it can be spent well,” said State Councilor Chen Zhili.

(Xinhua)

## Graduates encouraged to work in villages

By Feng Nianhua

Beijing municipal government will recruit two thousand university students who will graduate this summer as village administrators and assistants in the municipality’s rural areas.

The recruitment will start in February, according to a press release issued by the government. The monthly salary is 2,500 yuan.

The government says it will buy social insurance for the employees, if they pass the examination and promise to serve for two years at least. After that, they can bring their family to the capital and get citizenship for their family members.

All the employees are allowed to find new jobs afterwards. They can also apply for higher education and will enjoy great benefits.

Beijing has 3,978 villages. The number of graduates working in the villages is expected to hit eight thousand in three years, Zhang Jianming, a senior official from Beijing Municipal Education Commission said.

# Frank Yu is Bill Gates right hand man!



“Living and working in China is like riding a rollercoaster with no idea of when it will stop.”

Photo by Christopher Parsons

By Christopher Parsons

Frank Yu works for one of the richest companies in the world – Microsoft. Frank understands where Beijing is heading, and he wants to stay on this wild ride of entertainment and trendsetting. Like his boss, Mr. Yu is a programmer and a manager. Now he is also a public speaker, as he elegantly speaks about Beijing’s business situation, as well as his company and even a little about BILL!

**Q: If you write an autobiography, what will the Beijing chapter start with?**

**A:** “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.”

**Q: What advantages do big companies have in Beijing?**

**A:** Beijing is the seat of power and bureaucracy. If it’s sold, sent to, wired or manufactured in China, someone in Beijing has some responsibility for approving it. Since Beijing is also a technological, cultural and artistic hub, big companies can draw upon a pool of educated and skilled artists, technicians and academics to work for them. As farmers in the US would say, these folks know how to scratch the hog.

**Q: What problems does your company face in BJ?**

**A:** The need for space, quality equipment, and hiring the best quality people we can as growing competition continues to be a challenge. Finding great mid level managers who are both experienced and proficient is probably the greatest need for any international company. My personal peeves are the poor quality pipes in commercial buildings.

**Q: Many foreigners come to Beijing for economic reasons. What are your goals?**

**A:** I find countries that are changing and growing fast both challenging and exhilarating.

Some people find the changes worrying and depressing. It’s like the old joke about the weather but with construction. If you don’t like the buildings in your neighborhood just wait a week and you’ll see some changes soon.

**Q: What is your job title? What is the technical term for ‘Bill’s right hand man’?**

**A:** I work for Microsoft Research Asia’s Advanced Technology Center in Beijing as a ‘Program Manager’. My feature teams are working on the next generation of Internet Explorer, Windows Media Center TV, Windows Media Center Extender and Mobile Embedded Devices for both the world and China. There

is some great stuff being researched and created here in Beijing.

**Q: What advice can you give newcomers to the Beijing business world?**

**A:** Its odd, but I have lived in Asia for eight years and now in Beijing for two of those and I still don’t speak Mandarin. Although learning Chinese is somewhat important, having the right attitude and a sense of humor is the only thing that will save you from being an angry, bitter and frustrated person here in China. Some days are great and some days feel like the whole system is against you. All of us foreigners have felt that at one time or another but the key is to pick yourself up, dust off the debris, lick your wounds and head back into the fray. China is exhausting but it’s never really boring.

**Q: What surprised you about working in BJ?**

**A:** That I actually like Beijing people more than I let on. I like their gruff, macho arrogant ways and I find myself absorbing their values the longer I am here. I also particularly like the Beijing accent and the addition of the -er onto everything.

**Q: What needs to be changed about China first?**

**A:** I think that everyone needs a chance to go abroad and see beyond their little provincial view of what they think of the world. Although China is a big country, in many ways the people seem like they live in a small provincial town, I live in a high rise but my neighbors treat it like a hutong and bring their bottles and carts onto the elevator.

**Q: If you could choose to do a project of your choice in Beijing what would it be?**

**A:** I would love to do an anthropological and ethnographic study of the urban and popular youth culture of China. Games, movies, music and books are just some of the cool stuff that will come out of China in the next few years. China will not be a follower, it will be a trendsetter. I would love to write and research these trends and help people and companies make great products.



# Hotspots for Chinese students in 2005



2005 was a busy year for the overseas universities and academic institutions who came to China to recruit students.

By Feng Nianhua

The UK, France, and Canada have made changes to policies concerning international students.

These were highlighted at the third annual Shanghai conference on studying abroad, organized by the Shanghai Education Association for International Exchange and its subordinate institutes last month.

## UK

The UK has made changes in four areas:

First, applicants are required to submit application material to the UK Visa Application Centre, not to the British Embassy Visa Section.

This change not only requires applicants to pay more for their applications, it also makes the process more inconvenient.

Second, more application materials are required, including a student questionnaire, the sponsor's salary bank book and individual income tax receipts.

Third, the application fees have risen from 580 yuan to 1,500 yuan.

Fourth, applicants from Anhui province are required to submit application documents to the British Consulate, Shanghai, not the British Embassy, Beijing.

## France

There was an increase in the total number of Chinese students who went to study in France in 2005. Students have applied to a wider range of courses, including Technology, IT and Fine Art.

First, France has its traditional advantages in attracting international students. International students enjoy the same welfare treatment as French students, such as food and travel allowances and medical in-

surance, and tuition are free at state universities.

Second, the reform of the French educational system was completed in 2005, so French higher education is connected to the education systems of European and international universities. This undoubtedly attracts more international students.

Third, the French government has simplified the examination and application procedures for student visas, and abolished the requirement of submitting a certificate of studying French for 500 hours. Only the TEF score is required. It also changed its policy concerning students working on and outside the campus.

## Canada

Canada was still a favorite study destination for Chinese students in 2005. There are three trends in the Canadian market concerning Chinese students.

First, more and more Canadian universities and colleges welcome Chinese students. About 35 percent Chinese students have qualified for undergraduate or graduate programs in famous universities.

Second, as the statistics show, more and more students are inclined to select the majors they like and schools with good reputations.

Third, though the tuition fees and cost of living in Canada have increased, the 1.8 percent increase on tuition in 2005 is the lowest for 25 years.

Fourth, it is easier for students to get a student visa and study permit from the Canadian Embassy.

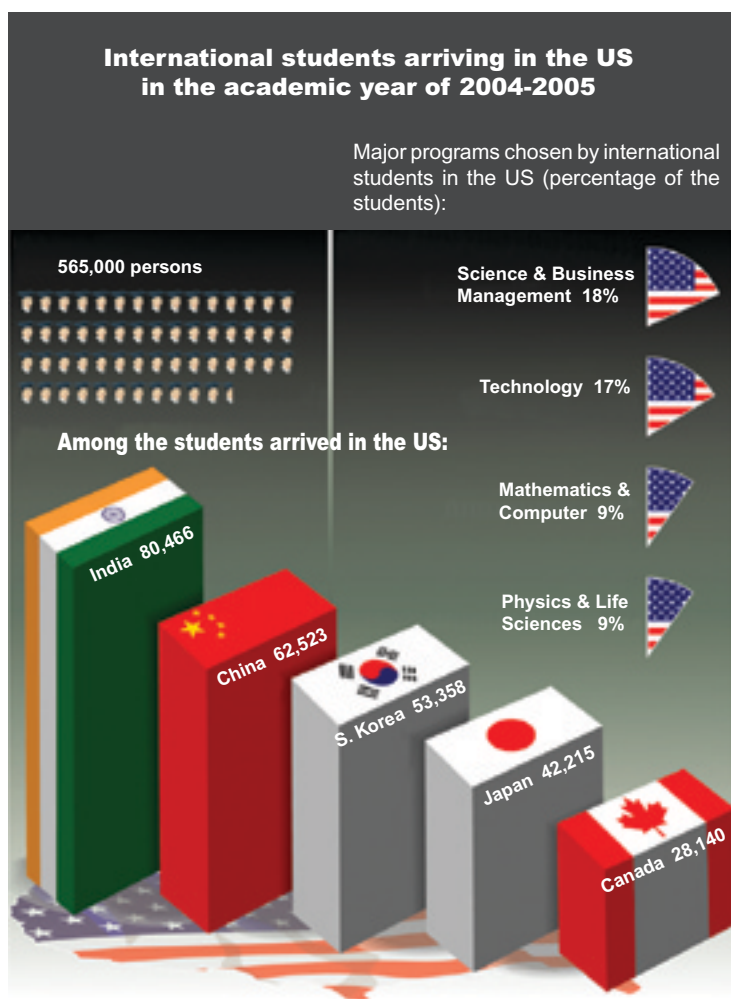
Sixty percent of all applicants were accepted in 2005, although the English language application standard is higher than in other Anglophone coun-

tries.

## Australia

First, the period for appli-

dents tend to study in the universities in Queensland and South Australia, but not only in the traditional universities such



Around 565,000 foreign students arrived in the US for higher education in 2005, according to the latest statistics released by the Institute of International Education (IIE). This is a 1.3 percent decrease compared with the previous year.

IIE, an independent non-profit organization founded in 1919, is a world leader in the exchange of education and culture.

Photos by Photocom.com

cants to get their application results has been shortened from four months to one month, thanks to a computerized system.

Second, more Chinese stu-

as the University of Sydney and University of Melbourne,

Due to the Australian government's preferential policy for students who study in its outlying regions, more international

students are heading there.

Third, accountancy is still very popular, although more students tend to select studying the programs provided by Technical and Further Education (TAFE). Around 7,000 Chinese students did courses in TAFE in 2005.

Fourth, the tuition fees have increased; the Australian government has brought related measurements to offer more financial aids, and thus more international students will benefit.

## Singapore

Singapore is competing for Chinese students, with several big universities holding entrance exams in big Chinese cities in 2005. These schools include: Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University, Singapore Polytechnic and Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

Compared with other foreign universities with good academic reputations, study costs are relatively low. The government provides loans which can cover 65 to 80 percent of the student's tuition fees. The students do not need to repay the loan. Instead, they sign a contract with the government to work in Singapore.

A series of standards, such as the CASE Trust and SQC (Statistical Quality Control) protecting foreign students' rights, have been strictly implemented. Experts estimate more public schools will provide quotas in 2006 for Chinese students who cover their own expenses.

## Japan

There is no obvious change in the Japanese international educational market for Chinese students, except the method of examining applicants' financial support from their families.

First, the examining emphasis is on the authenticity of an applicant's family financial situation. Students from Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Guangdong, Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces have more relaxed exam standards and application procedures.

Second, the Japanese Embassy and consulates enforce selective examination; if they cannot contact an applicant's financial backers after several phone calls, the application will be rejected.

Third, insurance provisions have been made for students who study in private schools; even when the schools are closed down the students are allowed to finish their studies in a nearby school.

started clenching. The judge, after hearing the policeman describe what happened the other day, stared at me, asking "do you plead guilty or not guilty?" What choice did I have? I said, "I plead guilty." Trying to grasp at a last straw, I added, "but I am a poor student. I am afraid I cannot afford the penalty. Could you please reduce it?" As serious as the judge was, a bit of compassion showed on her face. "Be careful next time. I will give you two parking tickets instead, for \$60 dollars in total. You won't get a point for a parking ticket."

Walking out of the court contentedly, I just couldn't stop wondering why only my policeman came.

Sai Ma, was born in Beijing. Graduated from Beijing University in 2001. Now She is a Ph.D. candidate in Policy Analysis in Los Angeles, US. Email: saima@prgs.edu

## Ask Ayi:

**Q: I was surprised to find that a Japanese university provides full English courses to international students, as reported recently during their recruitment in Beijing. Can you tell me more?** — Swich Sand

**A:** The school is the International University of Japan (IUJ). It is located in the heart of Niigata prefecture, where mountains, forests, farms and water create an attractive natural environment for students.

IUJ provides MBA, MAs and E-biz courses and programs.

The Graduate School of International Relations offers the international development program, international relations program and international peace studies program.

The Graduate School of International Management is the only business school in Japan that is in the Economist's "Top100 B-Schools of the World".

It joins hands with Japanese multinational companies to provide a useful MBA program to its students from over 30 countries.

It also provides a one-year E-business program via the Internet.

You can apply for 2006 programs and financial assistance at: [www.iuj.ac.jp](http://www.iuj.ac.jp).

(Edited by Xie Xiaolin)

## US: students still must wait for visas

By Xie Xiaolin

While Chinese students still have a long wait for the going-abroad interview with US visa officials, the visa issue system has been recently improved, according to the US Department of State.

The US has sent a further 500 visa officials abroad to improve the application process. Around 97 percent of students who pass the interview can get a visa within one or two days; 2 percent 'sensitive major' applicants have to wait for background approval – less than two weeks on average.

The number of students studying abroad in the US declined after September 11, but this trend has subsequently been reversed. In 2005, China had over 62,000 students going to the US, next only to India. Compared with the same period of the previous year, the figure has increased by nearly 32 percent in Beijing, nearly 20 percent in Shanghai, and more than 31 percent in Guangzhou, according to the US Embassy in Beijing.

On January 5 and 6, the US Department of State held the 'US University Presidents Summit on International Education'. Over 120 university presidents and officials discussed increasing the number of students who speak foreign languages, conveying the importance of higher education to the nation's security and welcoming more international students. They agreed an improved visa application would shorten the timeframe and would help reverse the reduction in the numbers of international students in the US.

## Register for state-aid study abroad exams

By Xie Xiaolin

The first exam for state-aid study abroad in 2006 will be held on June 24 and the second on December 16, according to the Ministry of Education (MOE).

Candidates have to register from April 16 to 22 to take the June 24 exam; from October 15 to 21 for the exam on December 16.

This year, China plans to fund around 7,000 students abroad, with an increase of 2,000 people for candidates for master or PhD programs. Applicants for master programs will study abroad for 12 to 24 months; PhD programs, 36 to 48 months; for cooperative PhD programs (study with research), 6 to 12 months.

These individuals will enjoy an advantage if they apply for seven key majors: telecommunication and information technology; advanced technology for agriculture; life science and human health; material science and new material; energy and environment; engineering science; applied social science; and WTO-associated fields.

By Sai Ma

Before leaving for the States, a friend of mine told me what he would miss the most about the US: driving. I didn't quite understand him until I got my car two years ago.

Driving is not just about efficiency and convenience. It enlarges my circle – there are so many places I had never been to before I got a car; it also makes me feel proud and independent – gives me somewhere to go and I can move on the earth. (Sorry Archimedes!)

However, the excitement sometimes comes at a price.

On one morning a month after I got my car, I volunteered to give a lift to my neighbor to her high school. In front of the school's gate, I stopped and let her out. From the back mirror, I could see I had blocked a truck. Just one more second, I thought, thanks for not honking at me. All of sudden, I heard a sharp siren

## Living in America (2):

# Step out of the ear please

and a policeman on a motorcycle showed up. Uh-oh! I immediately thought one of my schoolmates, a girl from the Philippines, who was arrested for continuing to drive after a police car tried to stop her. I pulled over right away. And I got a ticket.

\$260 dollars! That was too much. Even worse, having the ticket on my driving record



Photo by Sai Ma

would cause my mandatory auto insurance to increase accordingly. As an alternative, I can go to a traffic school, a one-day training program that serves to keep the ticket off my record, but of course, this will cost me extra money and time.

A friend suggested I go to court to argue my case, instead of paying the penalty. He told me if the cop didn't come to the court, I could request the judge dismiss my case. He also told me most of the time policemen didn't have time to get to the court at all – this gave me some hope.

So I chose to go to the court. A real court! I'd only seen courts in movies before.

When I actually sat down in

the court with some 30 other people, facing a real judge, I was so nervous that my palms sweated. Guess what? My friend was right. There was only one policeman in the court among the nearly 30 cases.

Unfortunately, the policeman looked familiar somehow – yes, he came for my case! Feeling I was up for special treatment, I stood up before the judge – as an extra honor my case was processed first, because only I had a witness: the policeman. The original plan of asking to dismiss my case would no longer work. Being first, I didn't even have a chance to see how other people argue their cases. My stomach





Sagano

Photos by Ralph Jennings



Kyoto teahouse



Kyoto teahouse mascot

# Kyoto days

## Tips

**Visitor websites:** [www.kyotoguide.com.raku.city.kyoto.jp/sight.html](http://www.kyotoguide.com.raku.city.kyoto.jp/sight.html)

*Kyoto was once the capital of Japan and therefore retains historical monuments plus signs of the culture that flourished under imperial rule. Major tourist attractions: More than 40 temples and shrines, many backed by gardens or mountain forests; Kyoto Imperial Palace*

**Specific destinations:**

1. *Self-guided walking tour of the mountainous Arashiyama-Sagano area: From the Keifuku-Arashiyama railway station, walk through wooded mountains along the Oi River and past family farms, cottages and stone Buddhas to temples and mountain trails.*

2. *Museum of Kyoto: Take Bus No. 50 from Kyoto Station to see culture, history and international arts exhibitions. Hours: 10 am – 7:30 pm; Tel: 075-222-0888; admission: 500 yen.*

3. *Zen Meditation: The mountain-rimmed Tenryuji Temple (group reservations Tel: 075-881-1235) and the Genko-an Temple (Tel: 075-492-1858) let visitors experience meditation and try temple food. Call for times and directions.*

**Shopping:** *Kyoto Station Building not only boards trains to other parts of Japan but also includes a department store, hotel, museum and theater. Tel.: 075-361-4394*

**Food:** *The Nishiki Food Market on the Karasuma subway line sells produce out of 150 stores. Customers can taste or purchase.*

By Ralph Jennings

A three-block walk from my central Kyoto guesthouse, something the size of a mini-apartment compound with a fishpond for a courtyard, took me almost accidentally to the gates of the East Honganji Temple.

No surprise. Temples fill Kyoto like soda stands fill carnivals, and it's their frequency that draws outsiders to this western Japanese city. The temples spill from the mountain ranges that rim the city down to my guesthouse near the central railway station.

Kyoto collected a quarter of Japan's temples, Shinto shrines and other lasting architecture when artisans gathered there to serve the emperor from the 800s to 1868, when the Japanese capital moved from Kyoto to Tokyo.

According to the Kyoto Convention Bureau, the historic architecture still stands because it avoided the US bombing during World War II. The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has designated 17 Kyoto landmarks as World Cultural Heritage sites.

A traveler may search for clues in Kyoto of the shift in power that dominated Japan for 700 years until the late 1800s. That is, the shogunate, the emperor's military office, effectively took over as supreme ruler during that period.

"The city of Kyoto has so many interesting stories because of its history of conflict 1,000 years ago," says Shunichi Okabe, senior manager of business development with the JTB New Century International Tours, Co. Ltd. in Beijing. "The spirit of Kyoto might be based upon that thought."

Chinese travelers might also recognize some of their own architecture and city planning, Okabe says, since Japanese studied it in Xi'an. "If Chinese people go to Kyoto they can understand how China had influenced the culture so much, and I am sure that they will be very proud," he says.

Travelers who know nothing of history still visit Kyoto's 43 big-name shrines and temples, which evoke more peace than conflict. In the peace department, they might notice the gardens of sculpted plants at

Enkoji temple or the forests and family farms surrounding a cluster of temples in the wilderness-dominated Sagano area.

Most travelers also hit the Kyoto Imperial Palace. That destination is a downtown park, with 9,000 trees, surrounding the former palace buildings and imperial residences. Call ahead (075-211-1215) to reserve a visit to the inner palace.

A China visitor to Japan's third largest city, at about 1.5 million people, will notice the relatively clean, quiet streets and how crowds as big as Beijing's can flow without anyone getting pushed.

Kyoto has designed a tight web of public transit routes so tourists can reach as many temples as possible during a short stay. Two subway lines, five private train lines, a bus system and the nationwide Japan Railways network cover most major streets

and extend into the mountains beyond the urban area.

Kyoto's municipal Industry and Tourism Bureau gives away English-language guides to temples, nightlife and mass transit.

A three-hour flight from Beijing took me almost all the way to Kyoto. Which is also no surprise, since Japan is relatively close to China and the Kyoto region is among the closest to Beijing.

Kyoto has no in-town international airport, so visitors from outside Japan must use the Kansai International Airport, which also serves Kyoto's neighbor Osaka. Major airlines from both China and Japan operate flights from Beijing.

An airport shuttle goes to the end of the Keihan Electric Railway Line's Uji stop, where Kyoto-bound travelers can catch a train ride involving a couple of transfers.

Local people are used to travelers from elsewhere in Asia and the West. Although few people in Kyoto speak fluent English, most try if necessary, and they patiently deal with Japanese language beginners despite massive barriers.

Travelers who know Chinese can read their way through the city, because most place names on maps or road signs appear as Chinese characters rather than in Japanese *katakana* or *hiragana* wording.

Bring a pile of money. Temple admission ranges from nothing to about US\$5, but lodging, eating and travel costs twice that of an average night's hotel stay in Beijing.

Central city guesthouses, called 'ryokan' in Japanese and often simply written that way in English, run an average of US\$90 to US\$100 a night for a single room that requires sleeping on a ground mat and using a public bathroom. Guesthouses run cheaper than mainstream hotels such as the Ana Hotel Kyoto at US\$136 per night or the Kyoto Hotel Okura at US\$127 per night, and their atmosphere gives the otherwise transient tourist a sense of local tradition.

The website: <http://japanese-sequesthouses.com/db/kyoto/> lists 52 *ryokans* in Kyoto (including nine with hot springs), room rates and location details.

I left Kyoto in two days with a sense I had not seen it all. Which is definitely no surprise, because guides recommend sticking around for public tea ceremonies, kimono-wearing experiments and do-it-yourself woodblock printing.

A traveler with more extra time can do the whole *Kansai* (literally 'west of the pass') region. That area covers Nara, a historic city that includes the Buddhist Todaiji Temple, coastal Kobe where tourists can take port cruises and Osaka, home of an Asahi brewery and the Matsushita Electric Hall of Science and Technology.

Anyone visiting Kyoto as part of a larger Japan tour can board a Shinkansen bullet train for about US\$100 (one-way ticket) and five hours to Tokyo via the south slope of Mt. Fuji.



Central Kyoto